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THE TIMES

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Primary schools clear out the unruly

Fourfold rise in expulsion of under-12s

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

GROWING violence among young children has led to a fourfold increase in the number of pupils expelled from primary schools since the start of the decade. And many schools say that disruptive children as young as six are making it impossible for classmates to learn.

Statistics collected for the Department for Education and Employment show that 1,445 children under the age of 12 were expelled in 1994-95, compared with 378 four years earlier. A Times survey of inspection reports suggests that the trend has continued in the current school year.

With more pupils also being suspended from state schools, growing numbers of young children have to rely on home tuition or part-time places in specialist units. But inspectors have criticised the quality of out-of-school provision, which often leaves children free to walk the streets and begin a life of crime.

Concern over classroom discipline has previously focused on the increase in exclusions from secondary schools, and the equally dramatic rise in primary schools — which traditionally expel very few pupils — is described by teachers' leaders as very worrying.

They say it is evidence of a deep social malaise affecting schools and blame a general decline in children's behaviour, a lack of respect for authority and the integration of pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties into mainstream schools.

Research carried out at

Portsmouth University found that four-fifths of those excluded from primary schools came from families known to the police or social services. More than half of the expulsions involved physical aggression and half of the pupils concerned had been living either in children's homes or with foster parents.

Almost without exception, primary schools recording the most temporary or permanent exclusions serve poor urban areas. Nine out of ten children excluded are boys, most of them aged between nine and eleven — although some are much younger. Only last week, a six-year-old boy was expelled from St Malachy's Junior and Infant School, in Halifax, West Yorkshire for breaking into the school with a four-year-old friend.

As in secondary schools, black Caribbean boys are by far the most likely to be excluded. Statistics compiled by the Office for Standards in Education show that 175 black Caribbean pupils in every 1,000 were either suspended or expelled in 1994-95, compared with 31 per thousand whites. Dr Carol Hayden, who conducted the Portsmouth survey, said: "The schools had gone to great lengths to avoid exclusions, but eventually they were left with no alternative. Teenagers may come out with a stream of verbal abuse, but young kids are more likely to lash out, especially if they lack language skills, as many of these children do."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the figures were appalling. "This confirms that the problem is moving down the age range. Increasing numbers of pupils are out of control at home and exhibit unacceptably violent and disruptive behaviour at school. We do seem to be seeing a growing number of pupils for whom violence or threats of violence is a first reaction to whatever problem is besetting them."

The association's annual conference, which begins in Torquay today, will debate exclusions on Thursday. One motion demands that all restrictions on a head teacher's right to suspend or expel pupils should be lifted, and inspectors should no longer penalise schools for a high level of exclusions.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, has promised to ease the restrictions by allowing schools to suspend pupils for up to 15 days, rather than the present 15 days in each term. But Ofsted still uses exclusions as one indication that a school has serious weaknesses.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said the closure of special schools had contributed to the problem. "Educating these pupils in ordinary schools can be disastrous for them. We need to reopen special schools and build more referral units."

Head's defence, page 2
Leading article, page 17



In spite of parents' fears, the official advice to mothers yesterday was that they should carry on using their usual brands of infant formula

Concern grows over suspect baby milk

By RUSSELL JENKINS AND NICK NUTTALL

THOUSANDS of anxious parents rang baby-milk manufacturers yesterday, demanding to know if their products are safe.

At the same time ministers stepped in to try to calm increasing public concern over the effects of packaged foods on the future fertility of boy babies. Doctors expect to be inundated today with inquiries from mothers desperate for information.

Ministers refused yesterday to bow to criticism of their refusal to name the 15 brands that tests have shown to contain gender-bending chemicals, called phthalates, at levels that could be high enough to reduce fertility. When similar levels of the chemicals were administered to baby rats in tests by the Medical Research Council

their testicles were damaged and sperm-counts reduced.

The Ministry of Agriculture stood by its decision not to publish the results of its own research. Dr Jeremy Metters, the Government's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, claimed in a statement that there was no cause for alarm. He urged mothers to carry on using their usual brands of infant formula.

Tim Boswell, an Agriculture Minister, insisted on the BBC World at One programme: "We are in the business of being open with the public, giving them the facts which are relevant, and I hope they will respond by accepting that... if we say things are safe, that is what we mean."

The Government received support from Dr Richard Sharpe, Britain's most respected expert on sex-changing chemicals. Dr Sharpe, of Edinburgh's MRC Reproductive Biology Unit, said the controversy was needlessly alarmist, adding: "Infants are not at any significant risk from formula baby-milk powder because of the presence of low levels of phthalates which may have weak oestrogen activity."

The formula-milk industry, worth more than £134 million a year, was surprised by the level of public concern generated by newspaper reports. The Infant and Dietetic Foods Association, which represents the industry, said last night that there was no need for the Government to identify the contaminated brands because it was already acknowledged as an industry-wide problem.

The leading brands are SMA Nutrition, Cow and Gate, Milupa and Farley's. Several of them responded to

public concern yesterday by manning additional telephone lines.

Katharine Lewis, 26, a mother from Blackfordby, Leicestershire, with a nine-month-old son, Thomas, contacted councillors, government departments and manufacturers in a hunt for information. "I would like the manufacturers to open up and tell us what is going on," she said.

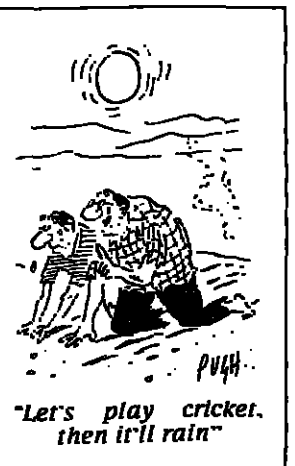
Dr John Chisholm, a Berkshire GP and deputy chairman of the BMA's GPs committee, complained that ordinary family doctors had been kept in the dark apart from "bland" reassurances. He called on the Department of Health to issue an urgent briefing paper before GPs arrived at work today.

The scare highlights increasing concern among scientists, governments and environmentalists about the up to

60,000 man-made chemicals now in use and their possible impact on the human reproductive system and wildlife. Several of the chemicals, including detergents, plastic additives, pesticides and the by-products of incineration, have been accused of mimicking the female hormone oestrogen in laboratory tests. Other chemicals appear to block the male, androgen, hormones to cause a similar feminising effect.

Researchers have linked these chemicals to an increase in cases of undescended testes, a lowering of sperm counts and a rise in female breast cancer. In Britain the government is spearheading several research projects which are trying to unravel which chemicals are hazardous. The baby-milk scare has come from such as government-ordered research project.

Thomas Stuttford, page 16



Chechen deal

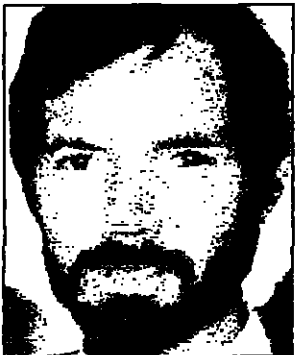
Chechen and Russian leaders have agreed to a permanent peace agreement on Saturday. The deal was signed by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen rebel leader and the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Page 9

British aid worker killed by Kenya car theft gang

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

A BRITISH aid worker has been killed in Kenya in the latest in a series of carjackings aimed at expatriates and their expensive cars. Police said Chris Morris, an agricultural worker for the British aid organisation Farm Africa for four years, was shot and killed by gunmen who overtook him on a road in central Kenya.

Mr Morris's body was discovered in a forest close to a police academy at Kiganjo in the foothills of Mount Kenya, 155 miles north of Nairobi. His car was found without its number plates in woods near a tourist spot, Kampi Sima (Six Camps), according to a local newspaper, which claimed it had been stolen by a gang led by Gerald Wambugu, who heads Kenya's "most wanted list". Mr Morris, 42, was



Morris worked on agricultural projects

married and had a son, aged three, and a daughter, who was six. His wife is still in Kenya. A friend described Mr Morris as almost "messianic" in his enthusiasm for his work on agricultural projects.

Two years ago Mr Morris's cousin, Peter Jackson, was also murdered in Kenya while working as a visiting missionary. Mr Morris's father, Philip, worked as a missionary surgeon in Kenya and Tanzania before being killed in a car crash. His brother Rob, who is a GP in Handcross, West Sussex, spent seven years in Uganda with the Christian aid group, Tear Fund.

The Rev Marion Clutterbuck, at All Saint's Church, Windfield, West Sussex, where Mr Morris's mother Molly is a member of the congregation, said: "They just seem to have had one tragedy after another. But they are a very devout and brave family and I am sure they will see it through together."

Hume tries to save divorce reforms

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CARDINAL Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, has intervened to try to save the Government's beleaguered divorce law reforms.

In a letter to *The Times* today, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales tells MPs threatening a cross-party revolt that defeat would lead to greater deficiencies under the current laws. Cardinal Hume says that key parts of the Family Law Bill have been strengthened during its Commons passage, particularly by extending the waiting time before divorce to 18 months.

His backing follows widespread support for reform from the main churches although there has been opposition from the Law Society, which has attacked confusing delays and uncertainties in the

redrafted Bill. Cardinal Hume makes clear that more money needs to be spent educating people about parenting and relationships.

Conservative critics are threatening to vote against the final stages of the Bill next month unless the concept of "fault" is incorporated. They say that although a rebellion of more than 100 Tory MPs failed to defeat the Government last month, deep-seated worries still need to be addressed if the legislation is not to face further trouble.

Ministers recognise the potential of an alliance between the headline rebels and the Labour Party, which is considering whether to oppose a Bill it describes as a "dog's breakfast".

Letters, page 17

Money talks as monks break habit of a lifetime

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE twin modern scourges of oil pollution and "mad cow" disease have persuaded 16 Cistercian monks to break their silence and make a television appeal for tourists to visit their island home and save it from economic disaster.

To meet the costs of running their monastery on the tiny island of Caldy off the Welsh coast, the monks need an income of about £300,000 a year.

Until now, most of the money has come from the 1,500 tourists who make the

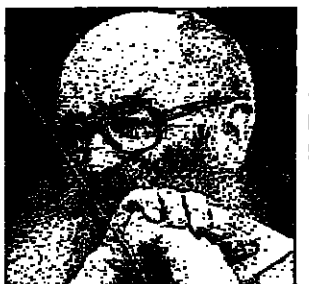
three-mile boat journey to the monastery each day and buy the monks' farm produce and perfume. But when the *Sea Empress* ran aground in February and split its cargo of thick crude oil across the beaches and coasts used by summer visitors, the tiny island suffered an immediate and near catastrophic decline.

The monks' almost unending prayers appeared to go unanswered and after an anguished appraisal of their problems, it seemed that the only way to balance the books was to sell some of their herd of 100 prize cattle. But, even as they drew up

their plans, the BSE scare rendered the stock almost worthless.

So Brother Robert, Abbot of Caldy, turned to the modern "pulpit" of television and with the help of an accountant, the monks prepared advertisements. The abbot said: "We are not really publicity people. We do not speak at all for the first four hours of the day. However, we have to live in the modern world."

The monks watch only two hours of television a week, on Sunday afternoons. But the abbot said: "We may make an exception for our advert."



Father Robert: TV pulpit

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MPs campaign for a backdated rise in their pay-offs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR MPs are campaigning to secure bigger pay-offs for more than 100 backbenchers and ministers who are expected to lose their seats or retire at the General Election.

A "golden goodbye" payment of up to one year's salary is made to MPs when they retire from the Commons or are defeated at the polls. At present salary levels, many retiring MPs would receive a £34,085 lump sum.

The pay level is expected to be increased — possibly to £45,000 — under new rates to be recommended next month by the Senior Salaries Review Body. However, dozens of MPs fear that if pay rises do not come into effect until January, as is usual, an early election will deprive them of a larger pay-off.

Heavy cross-party pressure, led by Tory knights of the shires on the verge of retirement, is building up for the pay rise to be backdated either to last month or to the date on which the Commons approves the review body report, probably in July. Campaigners argue that Commons pay has slipped so much over recent years that immediate changes are justified.

More important to many retiring MPs is the potential loss of a heavily increased pension that would come into effect if a higher salary is introduced. MPs' pensions are based on the last full year's salary before retirement. Backdating the pay rise could increase the annual pensions of the longest-serving MPs by about £7,000 to £28,000.

One Tory knight preparing for retirement said: "I don't see why I should miss out throughout my retirement just because of an early election. Any pay rise is going to be unpopular, and frankly we'd be better introducing it now than have another set of bad headlines in January, possibly only weeks before an election."

More than 70 MPs have

announced they will step down, and dozens more will lose their seats. "This is really very important to quite a few colleagues at the older end of the party. They don't intend on losing out," said one minister.

Up to 40 MPs are understood to be pressing colleagues to support moves to backdate the rise to April, ensuring that pensions are based on salaries over a longer period.

Sir Terence Higgins, a Tory MP, has led a campaign for higher salaries and is retiring at the election. He said: "It will be for MPs to decide the date



Higgins undecided on timing of the increase

of any increase and it certainly will have a personal effect on those who are planning for their retirement. That is something that MPs will have to think about carefully." He would make up his mind on issue of timing after seeing the details of the report.

Ministers are wary of an unifying Commons battle over pay and are keen that the review body recommendations are accepted without arguments between MPs. However, they are braced for a wave of pressure to backdate the pay, particularly if the review body report backs off recommending a starting date.

MPs receive a year's salary — the first £30,000 of which is tax-free under normal severance rules — if they leave the Commons between the ages of 55 and 64, having served more than 15 years as an MP. The minimum payment of half annual salary — some £17,000 — is made to those aged over 70 having served more than 15 years, or those serving fewer than 10 years.

In 1992, 140 MPs shared an estimated pay-out of more than £2million, as well as additional £500,000 "winding up" allowance to cover the costs of unexpected contracts for staff and office leasing. With record numbers of MPs expected to stand down voluntarily at the next general election, Commons officials expect pay-offs to soar well beyond £4 million.

One front-bench Tory said: "The driving force behind this campaign is greed and there is no thought about the public reaction. We are despised by the public and we would deserve to be if we gave ourselves an early pay increase. We all stood at the last election knowing the pay and there's no reason to change that in this Parliament. We should leave the increase until after the election."

Chris Mullin, a Labour MP who gave evidence to the review body, will be among those demanding smaller pay rises than the expected recommendations. "I will table an amendment calling for pay to be increased at the inflation rate."

John Major called on the review body to investigate MPs' pay and to set up a new formula to replace the recent practice by which Commons salaries have been linked to the pay rises of middle-ranking civil servants. The decision to refer the issue of pay followed widespread complaints from MPs over the 2.7 per cent increase they received in January this year.



Hazel Spence-Young suffered permanent damage when she was attacked

Violence in the classroom is increasing, says victim

By PETER FOSTER

A PRIMARY school teacher who suffered spinal injuries when she was attacked by a ten-year-old boy in 1989 said classroom violence had become increasingly common.

Hazel Spence-Young, 48, was paralysed down her right side after she was punched on the chin by a pupil at the Frederick Bird school in Hillfields, Coventry.

She said: "In 1989 my case was exceptional, but teachers will tell you that violence is no longer unusual and that the

situation is getting worse."

Ms Spence-Young had barred the 10-year-old from going to a PE lesson because he had failed to complete his homework. The boy, who was two to three inches shorter than the 5ft teacher, punched and kicked her as she tried to restrain him in a corridor.

She said: "In the course of the struggle I got walloped very hard two or three times and suffered soft tissue damage, tearing out the nerve roots in my neck. When the scar tissue formed the nerves became trapped, leaving me

in constant pain. On bad days I have to use morphine and will have to wear a neck brace for the rest of my life."

Ms Spence-Young argues that the boy, who had been recognised as violent by educational psychologists, should have been excluded and sent to a special school long before the incident took place. The boy turned the class into a "daily battleground".

She was awarded £52,500 in compensation in March in an out of court settlement from Coventry City Council, which denied liability.

Suspensions get results, says primary head

By PETER FOSTER

A HEADMASTER who suspended 24 pupils in a year defended his record yesterday, saying that the disciplinary regime had brought good order to his primary school.

Stephen Williams, headmaster at Goldbeaters Primary in Barnet, northwest London, handed out one-day exclusions to 21 boys and three girls from a total of 384 pupils in 1995-96. The school is in an area of high unemployment where two in five pupils are entitled to free meals.

So far this year, three years after introducing mandatory one-day suspensions for every six detentions a child receives, Mr Williams has suspended only five pupils.

He said the interests of the majority sometimes had to take precedence over the needs of a disruptive minority of children. "Difficult or dangerous children represent 5 per cent of the total school roll but can take up 95 per cent of a teacher's time and energy. You have to weigh that against the needs of the other 29 pupils in a class."

Mr Williams, who has been head of Goldbeaters for 13 years, said modern counselling techniques for difficult pupils placed extra demands on teachers, already coping with a host of other pressures on their time and patience.

"If you look back at old punishment books, you will find the same names over and over again. Caring for pupils probably didn't do much to reform the offenders, but it certainly deterred the other 95 per cent from misbehaving."

"Since the late 1970s, the emphasis in schools has been on counselling and behaviour management, policies which take a lot more time and effort to implement. These days, in contrast to the 30 or 40 years ago, teachers may have to contend with a class full of children from mixed racial and cultural backgrounds, some of whom may not speak English, which further reduces the time available to devote to difficult pupils. The

More than 40 per cent of primary school children are in classes of at least 30 pupils, according to government figures published by Labour today. The statistics show a 7 per cent increase in a year, while the numbers in classes of 40 grew even faster. Almost 18,000 primary school pupils were in classes that breached the 40 mark when the Department for Education and Employment did its 1995 census, compared with the previous figure of 14,000.

recent trend towards league tables and statistical evaluation of a school's performance may also lead schools to spend less time on the children who are unlikely to boost their position in the tables. Exclusions must be seen as part of this wider picture if pressure on teachers."

This year Mr Williams has introduced a parallel "reward" scheme which gives bronze, silver and gold certificates for good work and behaviour. He said: "We operate a system of reward and sanction which means we write nasty letters to parents when things go wrong, but also give encouragement when children perform well."

Under the exclusions scheme, parents whose children receive three detentions are asked to come to see the headmaster to discuss their child's problems. "We try to discover whether there is an identifiable pattern in the child's behaviour and get the parents involved."

Children receive the detentions if, for example, they are persistently disruptive, steal other children's property or make racial insults against their classmates. Mr Williams, who has expelled only three children in 13 years, said he did not think the recent level of suspensions excessive. "If the result is good order then it is worth it."

Leading article, page 17

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All baby milk formulas contain plastic chemical

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE baby milk formulas at the centre of the current scare are made mainly from cows' milk with some manufactured from the curds and whey and others based on casein, the milk's protein. A small number are also made from soya beans.

The formulas then have vitamins, fats, minerals and other essential elements either added or taken away so that the final, dried product mimics human mother's

milk. Phthalates, the group of chemicals implicated in contamination of the formulas, are man-made. They have been used in a wide variety of industrial materials linked with the plastics industry for many years.

The chemicals have been put into special inks used to print on wrappers, labels and other packaging materials. They allow the inks to be flexible so they stick to wrappers without fracturing and

flaking off. Phthalates have also been put in cellophane, plastic tubing used in industrial plants and plastic storage containers.

Gwynne Lyons, scientific adviser to the Worldwide Fund for Nature, an expert on so-called oestrogen-mimicking chemicals, said yesterday that research in the United States had also detected the chemicals in crops.

So any attempt to unravel the source of contamination will need to look at the chain from field to packaging but the main suspicion will be on the manufacturing plants themselves.

Ms Lyons said yesterday: "The levels found are probably cumulative. A bit from the field, a bit from the processing and a bit from other sources."

Ms Lyons said concern about phthalates was part of a wider concern surrounding up to 60,000 chemicals linked with a declining sperm count in the west and other environmental effects.

Four manufacturers dominated a total market worth £134 million in Britain with the range expanded by follow-on formulas, ready-to-feed milks and soya based milks. Some supermarkets and chains offer their own brand products.

Scientists tested 59 samples from 15 brands and all were found to contain phthalates. Nine brands were said to contain levels of the chemicals close to those found to damage the testicles of baby rats.

THE KEY QUESTIONS

What should mothers do? Government scientists, the baby milk industry and independent bodies such as the National Childbirth Trust and the Health Visitors' Association say mothers should keep to their current feeding patterns, using the same brand and dosage.

Is one brand better than another? This is difficult because the Government refuses to publish the names of brands containing high levels of phthalates. Experts suggest that most — possibly all — are affected to some extent. Powdered milk made abroad is no safer. Formulas on sale in Britain are made here, the Republic of Ireland, France and Germany.

Should women switch to breast milk? Breast feeding is considered the healthiest choice but switching from formula to breast is "not realistic advice". Once a woman has stopped breastfeeding her milk can dry up within days. Also when a baby is used to bottle-feeding, it is often difficult to revert.

Should older babies drink cows' milk? Mainstream thinking is that only babies of a year or more should drink cows' milk. It is not regarded as suitable for the newly-born as it lacks iron, vitamins and other essential nutrients.

Other choices? A new formula milk made from goats' milk is on the market but mothers are advised to use this only if the child is over a year old. Soya-based milks are designed for babies whose mothers are allergic to milk products but they too were found to be affected.

Are ready-made milks safe? Ready-made milks in cartons have the same composition and manufacturing process as powdered formulas. It is not known whether they were tested.

Solicitors' leaders 'seek total power'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE outgoing top official at the Law Society has accused the current leadership of Martin Mears and Robert Sayer of not being fit to govern the profession.

John Hayes, secretary-general of the solicitors' professional body for ten years, says that the leaders believe they can pursue their ends at the expense of the "normal democratic conventions". He accuses them of ignoring the normal processes of consultation and opinions that are contrary to their policies.

Mr Mears, the president, and Mr Sayer, his deputy, were elected last summer after promising to reform the society and they continue to have wide support among its 65,000 members.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hayes — who gave the society in its

present shape, with a staff of some 700 and budget approaching £50 million — says the two cannot "face the truth" about the impracticability of their aims.

The two men were elected on a programme of reducing the society's bureaucracy; tackling the problem of surplus entrants to the profession; and acting against bargain-basement conveyancing.

Mr Hayes said: "There is a reluctance to take on board the whole of the advice or information of others, and a reluctance to accept that a professional relationship does not depend on blind adherence to their policies or the proffering of views which confirm their prejudices." The two want all levers of power at the society "under their control", he says. "At the heart of it is the problem of the personalities involved."

"Wherever you go — among ministers, the judiciary, leaders of other bodies here

and abroad — they can't believe what is happening to the Law Society."

A former president of the society, Roger Pannone, recently declared that the society had become a "humorous farce".

Yesterday, Mr Mears and Mr Sayer, who won the society's first contested elections for 40 years, reacted angrily to Mr Hayes' comments. Mr Mears said the "harsh truth" about Mr Hayes was that "he has had control over the Law Society for ten years and has made it his fiefdom. He has seen spending rise to approaching £50 million, from £6 million, and staff from 220 to 700. His alienation from the professional body was such that it enabled outsiders to be elected."

Mr Sayer said: "If the Law Society had been governed so well in the past decade, we would not have been elected."

Hayes interview, page 29

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Heart girl saved on her holiday

Florida surgeon waives his fee for pacemaker

By Bill Frost

A BRITISH girl who collapsed during a family holiday was recovering in a Florida hospital yesterday after a heart surgeon performed a life-saving operation. Touched by the bravery of Rachel Howker, the consultant waived his normally substantial fee.

Last night 11-year-old Rachel, who has a congenital heart defect, said: "I am in pain, but not nearly as much as I was in before."

She collapsed the day after she arrived in Florida with her parents to visit Disney World. The family was told that flying the child back home to Britain — as suggested by their insurance company — might put her life in jeopardy.

She was admitted to the Tampa Children's Hospital at St Joseph's where Gary Haas, a heart specialist, agreed to carry out an operation even though he might never be paid for his work.

A section was cut from Rachel's enlarged heart and a new pacemaker fitted. A nurse on her ward said last night: "She's up and around and doing fine."

Rachel's family yesterday paid tribute to the skill and generosity of her surgeon, Carol Gilmore, her mother, said: "This is a dream, a gift from God."

Margaret Marshall, the child's aunt, said that her sister, Carol, and Rachel's stepfather, Kevin, had travelled to Florida from the family home in Ramsbottom, Greater Manchester, after being given the all-clear by a doctor.

Rachel's medical history included major surgery at Harefield Hospital, north London, when she was five and an operation to fit a pacemaker 18 months ago.

"She is a brave little girl who has tolerated a lifetime of suffering very bravely," she said. "Rachel is a real fighter

and I can't wait for her to come home."

The trip to Disney World had been a dream for them all. Mrs Marshall said: "Perhaps it was all the excitement, but within 24 hours of arriving she collapsed and was rushed into hospital. We all thought she wasn't going to make it, but she is a kid who doesn't give in easily."

Rachel's parents could never thank her doctor in Florida enough, she said. "Everyone hears how expensive medical treatment is in America, and when Rachel was stuck out there, we thought she would be in real trouble."

"They had insurance, but that only covered part of the treatment."

"We were all worried that she may face real problems, especially when the doctors advised she stay in the American hospital."

"But they have been wonderful. She's had treatment which we could never hope to afford."

"It has been a real lifesaver and without it Rachel would have had to go through life always facing operation after operation."

Rachel's aunt said that her niece had always attempted to live like any other child, despite her illness. "She can get out of breath very quickly because of her problem. But she never gives in, that's not in her nature."

"Now that worry has been partly lifted. She can face life with a little less worry. It's marvelous."

Carol Gilmore was bearing up well to the strain. "Sometimes she is a bit down in the dumps, but since the success of operation she's really perked up," said Mrs Marshall.

Stanley Howker, Rachel's godfather, was "absolutely delighted" at her recovery. He had been "worried sick" that



Rachel Howker recovering yesterday in hospital. Staff described her as "very brave and always smiling"

she might not survive after collapsing in Florida. "When you're on the other side of the Atlantic you feel so helpless, but when I talked to Rachel she seemed in good spirits."

"We've spent sleepless nights worrying, but now I can only say how glad I am that things have worked out."

Mr Howker praised the surgeon who saved his goddaughter. "When you're talking about the life of a child or the cost of paying for the medical attention, what do you choose?"

"Obviously he thought the life of a child is more important. I think he has been brilliant —

he deserves a medal." Mary Estes, a spokeswoman for Tampa Children's Hospital, said doctors would keep Rachel under observation for "a week or so" before allowing her to return to Britain.

"The doctors and nurses all love her, she's such a brave girl," she added. "Her parents

are staying with us at the hospital and see her all the time. They are so grateful and we are so happy we could help."

"I have just seen her, and she is walking around the ward smiling at people. She is a really lively little girl and she cannot wait to get home."

Priest critical of police after citizen's arrest

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A PRIEST who made a citizen's arrest on three girls trespassing in his churchyard has been told he could be charged with assault. The Rev John Twisleton acted after a £5,000 burglary at St Luke's in Holbrook, Coventry, and after teenagers had been banned from the grounds.

Dr Twisleton said that he and a local Scoutmaster saw three girls aged 12, 14 and 16 in the grounds at the weekend. "They dashed off when they saw us, but we called them off in a pincer movement and cornered them at the back of the church. There was a bit of a struggle and the usual impudent comments from the three girls, who at first refused to give their names."

"They said we had no right to stop them, but I explained they were trespassing on private property. We frogmarched them into the vicarage and they eventually told us names and addresses that I was satisfied were genuine. After warning the three that we would be informing the police, we let them go."

"When Dr Twisleton and his wife tried to call the police, they were cut off while trying to explain what had happened. After making a second call, the Twisletons were told that an officer would attend at some point. The next morning he called again and was told no officer could come until after the Bank Holiday."

Yesterday Dr Twisleton said: "I find it sad that this is the level of support we can expect from the West Midlands Police. It is disturbing that a person such as myself, who is trying to protect the local community and a church building, is then warned by the police that I could face charges. I feel I have been treated in a shoddy manner."

He said the police needed to encourage citizens to help, not turn against them. "It took a bit of courage to make a citizen's arrest and I have tried to make a stand, but now I feel like throwing in the towel. The police are giving us no back-

up and consequently I have been made to look rather foolish."

A West Midlands Police spokesman said the log of the calls showed that the caller discussed what action should be taken and agreed that police need not attend immediately. It was agreed that a local beat officer would visit the church and discuss ways of improving security and reducing the problem of vandalism. The caller had been told that the beat officer would not be able to attend until Tuesday and had indicated that that would be acceptable.

The spokesman said: "We



Twisleton: told he could be charged with assault

would also point out that making a citizen's arrest in a situation where the offence may be trespassing could mean a member of the public, despite acting with the best intentions, leaving themselves liable to a possible charge of assault if a court deemed the arrest to be unlawful."

Dr Twisleton said that the churchyard fence had been broken several times and that teenagers had rampaged through the grounds. During the burglary two safes, a video recorder and speakers had been taken. Neighbours were also plagued by teenagers cutting through the churchyard and their gardens at night.

Missing French student may be frightened

By Bill Frost

A MISSING French teenage girl may be too frightened to come forward, police said yesterday. Fanny Paltor, 17, a language student who speaks only broken English, has failed to return to her room at a local hotel where she was working as a waitress.

Detectives are trying to trace five young men who picked her up in their car when she flagged them down after leaving a Cardiff nightclub about 2.30am on Saturday. Yesterday South Wales police said that she had been seen since in a shopping area.

A witness saw Miss Paltor, known to friends as Nina, on Saturday afternoon sitting on the pavement outside a department store listening to a South American street band. There is an unconfirmed report that she was seen in the city centre on Sunday afternoon.

Detective Chief Inspector Fred Williams, who is leading the inquiry, said: "Fanny may feel scared that she is in trouble for staying away from her work. We are urging her to contact us and reassure us that she is safe."

"Any friends or relatives could also help to pass on a message if she has been in touch with them. Obviously we are still concerned because she is young and vulnerable and speaks only broken English. As far as we know she



Fanny Paltor: speaks only broken English

had very little money with her."

Workmates at the Campanile Hotel in Cardiff were puzzled and anxious. The teenager rang them at 9pm on Friday asking them to set her alarm clock because she was on duty over the weekend. Lee Bailey, the manager, said: "She has never missed a day at work before. It isn't like her just not to turn up."

"She is a fun-loving girl and very popular with all her colleagues. She likes to go out and socialise but takes her work seriously. We are all very worried."

The student's parents, who live at Soyaux in Charente, western France, have been told of her disappearance. Ms Paltor arrived in Cardiff on April 5 to start work-experience while studying English.

Her disappearance comes five months after the killing of Celine Figard, a French student who vanished the week before Christmas after accepting a lift from a lorry driver on the A34 near Newbury, Berkshire. Her body was found ten days later in a layby near Worcester. She had been sexually assaulted. A man is due to stand trial on October 2 accused of murdering her.

Jailed farmer's appeal blames sheep dip

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A FARMER serving 12 years in jail for attempted murder is to appeal against his conviction because he had been poisoned by sheep-dip pesticides.

The case could open the way for scores of other farmers who say they have suffered ill-effects from use of the chemicals to lodge claims for damages against the Ministry of Agriculture, which from 1976 to 1992 compelled them by law to dip their sheep at least once a year.

Robert Billings, 59, of Warrington, West Sussex, was sentenced in Lewes Crown Court in December 1994 for firing a shotgun at George Foster, a labourer who had been living in a caravan on his farm, and severely wounding him. The exact circumstances of the shooting, which occurred on a night in November of the previous year, are still not entirely clear. Billings had been drinking earlier in the day.

Nigel Weller, whose Brighton-based legal firm defended Billings, said: "He not only shot and wounded Foster in the left shoulder but fired repeatedly at random, at his own car and Foster's van and also at farm buildings. There were cartridges all over the place."

Mr Weller was so concerned by Billings's condition when he interviewed him for nearly two hours at Haywards Heath police station immediately

after the shooting that he insisted the custody officer make a note of it in the custody record.

"He was in a peculiar catatonic state, sweating profusely and completely disorientated," Mr Weller said.

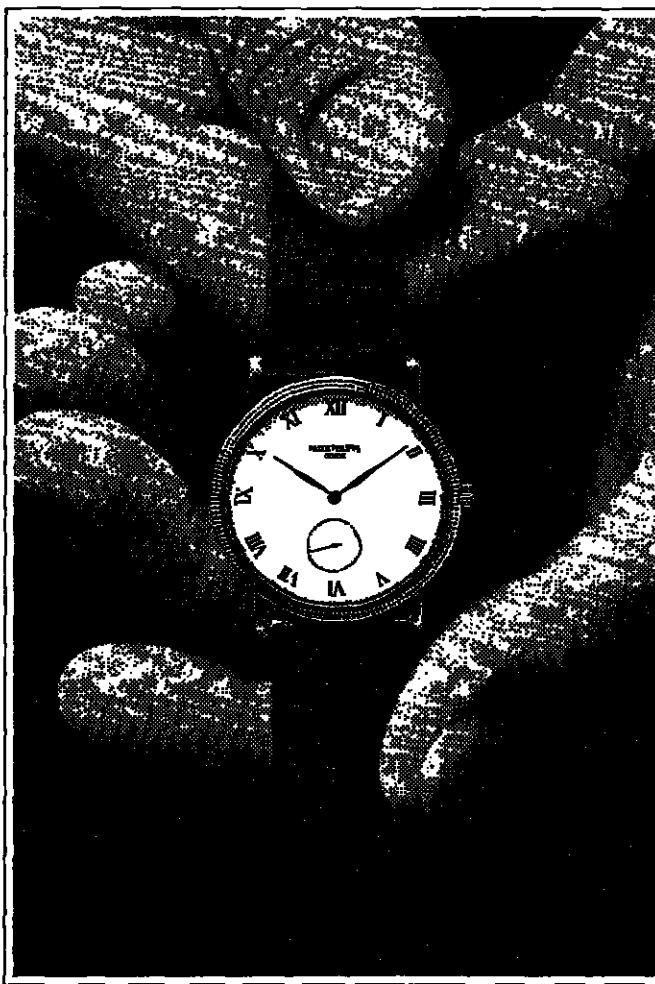
It was only after the trial that Billings's wife, Ursula, happened to read an article about the dangers of organophosphate chemicals, the kind most commonly used in sheep dips to prevent scab, a parasitic disease of the skin and fleece. Billings had been dipping sheep the day before the shooting.

Robert Davis, a consultant psychiatrist based at Taunton, Somerset, who has made a study of organophosphate poisoning, was asked to review the evidence. The principal issue concerns whether Billings had suffered brain damage due to exposure to the chemicals and had not been mentally capable of forming an intent to commit murder.

It is not in dispute that Billings was seen by a number of witnesses in a local pub behaving in a drunk and aggressive manner before the incident. But the defence will contend that his conduct was greatly exacerbated by the chemicals.

Dr Davis said: "One of the common features of organophosphate victims is that relatively small amounts of alcohol can have a disproportionate effect on their behaviour."

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Murder hunt after girl dies in fire

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

DETECTIVES have begun a murder investigation into the death of a 14-year-old Pakistani girl who died in an arson attack hours after returning from Karachi.

Gulnar Shah died in hospital after being rescued from her home in Ilford, east London, with her ten-year-old sister and her mother and father. The rest of her family were not seriously injured.

Yesterday police confirmed that petrol had been poured through the letterbox. Detectives said that neither the family nor community leaders could provide a motive and there was no evidence of a racial attack. Detective Chief Inspector

Peter Wiggin, leading the murder squad investigation, said: "We don't know if it was to do with her dad's social or business life or a racial attack."

Mr Wiggin said Mrs Shah and her two daughters lived in Pakistan and last visited Britain about ten months ago. They would have stayed with Gulnar's father Syed, an accountant and governor of a local school, for two or three weeks. The girls were both being privately educated in Pakistan. They had been in the house for only about three hours when the fire took hold. An outsider might have expected Mr Shah to be there alone.

There were traces of petrol around the letterbox, which appeared to have been poured through a funnel. It would have

exploded into a fireball when ignited, and the force of the blaze went up the stairs towards the bedrooms where the family were asleep. The back bedroom where Gulnar was sleeping took the brunt.

One neighbour, John Hunter, 73, said: "They were a lovely family. They were very friendly and I can't believe they had any enemies round here. There is very little racial tension round here. I cannot believe that anyone would want to do such a terrible thing."

Norman Gross, 70, said: "They were a very quiet family, ideal neighbours. She was a lovely girl and before she went away she looked over my fence and told me she was going back to Karachi and would write. She was very excited."



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Hardy pensioner waits far from the movie crowd

BY DALYA ALBERGE
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

FILM royalties from a rush of Thomas Hardy adaptations may bring a small windfall to an octogenarian family servant the author never met. In the best Hardy tradition, however, there is no certainty of a happy ending.

Ellen Adams, 83, was a housekeeper and beneficiary of the novelist's sister-in-law and has a share of the film rights. Yesterday, at her retirement flat in the Home Counties, she was modest about her prospects but full of praise for Hardy. Copies of his novels lie on her shelves: "I like them all. I don't read modern books — all those rubbishy love stories. Never."

The story began with the novelist's death in January 1928, when he left a series of wills dividing up his works. A number of copyrights went to his childless second wife, Florence. When she died nine years later, the rights benefited her spinster sister, Eva Dugdale, to whom Hardy had uttered his despairing last words: "Eva, what is this?"

Miss Dugdale, a spinster, created a new life for herself in London during the Second World War, becoming matron at the Royal Masonic Hospital in Hammersmith. In 1940, she



Thomas Hardy and his sister-in-law, Eva Dugdale. The novelist's last words were: "Eva, what is this?"

hired Miss Adams, one of the hospital's domestic staff, as housekeeper at her flat in Kensington. The two became inseparable. Miss Dugdale died in 1971, bequeathing Miss Adams £9,000, all her savings and most of her furniture. She also created a trust, granting one third of the income from her personal estate to "my faithful housekeeper and friend Ellen Adams".

Miss Adams said: "Miss Dugdale was a very nice lady, very kind and very good to me. She was very fond of Mr Hardy and used to talk about him. I was her companion, housekeeper, friend. They

were happy years. She died quietly in my arms."

"I have got an income that Miss Dugdale left me but I don't know what it comes from. I let the bank sort all that kind of thing out."

Miss Adams is unlikely to become wealthy, as the most lucrative Hardy rights, to the novels, were sold to publishers in 1944. All that remains is the rights to adaptations, including films and plays. There are now five possible new Hardy movies. *Jude*, starring Kate Winslet and Christopher Eccleston, was made before recent extended copyright changes came into force. How-

ever, the same team is collaborating on *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, and Channel 4 Films is making *The Woodlanders* with French partners. Negotiations are under way for *Wessex Tales* and *The Return of the Native*.

Conrad Williams, film and television agent at the literary agents Blake Freidmann, said rights figures were usually 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent of a film's final budget. Typically they might total £100,000.

However, Richard de Peyer, curator of the Dorset County Museum, which receives the majority of the estate's income, said rights in recent years had brought it just £4,000 a year. "When I heard a year ago that there were four films in prospect I got quite excited, but that is unreal because the copyright period will end in two years. The producers can easily just wait if trustees strike too hard a bargain."

At the solicitors Farrers and Co, estate trustee Mary Falk also played down talk of big money for Miss Adams: "It would be very nice if it did increase her income enormously, but unfortunately I do not think there is going to be any significant sum. If people can tell me how to get five figures for her, I would love to do so."



A scene from *Jude*, one of the Hardy films made before the recent copyright changes came into effect

Kinnock plans £1,000 road toll for lorries

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LORRY drivers could be forced to pay £1,000 a year to use the M25 and other heavily congested motorways under proposals being drawn up by Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner.

The former Labour leader is pushing for a Europe-wide system of charges for heavy lorries to make them pay for the estimated £200 billion cost of congestion, pollution and accidents they create across the European Union. The proposals have provoked outrage among representatives of Britain's hauliers, who claim

al charge of about £1,000 for routes of environmental sensitivity such as the Brenner Pass between Germany and Austria and heavily congested roads including the M25.

Although member states would not be compelled to introduce the charging system, European officials are convinced it will prove attractive to British politicians wanting to curb the use of heavy lorries on unsuitable roads.

In the longer term the fixed charge vignettes would pave the way for a system of electronic tolling, which Mr Kinnock regards as the best way of controlling traffic growth across the Union.

The proposals, contained in a Green Paper, *Towards Fair and Efficient Pricing in Transport*, are due to be discussed by EU transport ministers next month. Britain will be represented by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary.

The Green Paper will form the basis of European legislation likely to be introduced next year and coming into force around the turn of the century. Progress in implementing the proposals will be made at a transport forum in November attended by representatives of haulage firms, environmental groups, railway engineers and town planners.

The scheme is part of Mr Kinnock's pan-European strategy for a massive shift from road to rail across Europe over the next 20 years. "We have got to get member states to accept that in transport the old ideas of sovereignty simply get in the way of efficiency, economy, safety and competitiveness," he said.

they are already the most heavily taxed in Europe.

The scheme would be based on the "Eurovignette" system used by five European countries, which requires lorries to display a £1,000 permit giving them access to the motorway network. The system is already in place in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Denmark and is aimed at foreign lorries using those countries' roads en route to other destinations. Mr Kinnock wants the charge to be raised to £2,000 and introduced across the European Union from next year. He is also proposing an extra annu-

Coastguards rescue dog in 80ft cliff fall

COASTGUARDS on Orkney have staged a full-scale rescue — to save a Jack Russell terrier stranded at the bottom of a cliff after falling 80ft into the Atlantic.

The dog had scrambled on to a rock ledge and sat shivering until help arrived. A team of auxiliary coastguards put down a winchman who carried it to safety in a rucksack.

The drama unfolded on Sunday on Whistoo Point, on the northwest corner of the Orkney mainland, where the dog and its owners are on holiday. The dog was chasing rabbits and, in its excitement,

misjudged the edge of the cliff. Alerted by the couple, a local farmer raised the alarm and auxiliary coastguard teams from Kirkwall and Stromness were dispatched.

Ian Morrison, senior watch officer with Pentlands Coastguard, said: "The dog had been chasing rabbits which headed for the edge of the cliffs and straight down a hole. Unfortunately, the dog continued on its path and plummeted 80ft into the sea."

"When the cliffman got down, it was glad to see him. It was in shock and had had enough by that stage."

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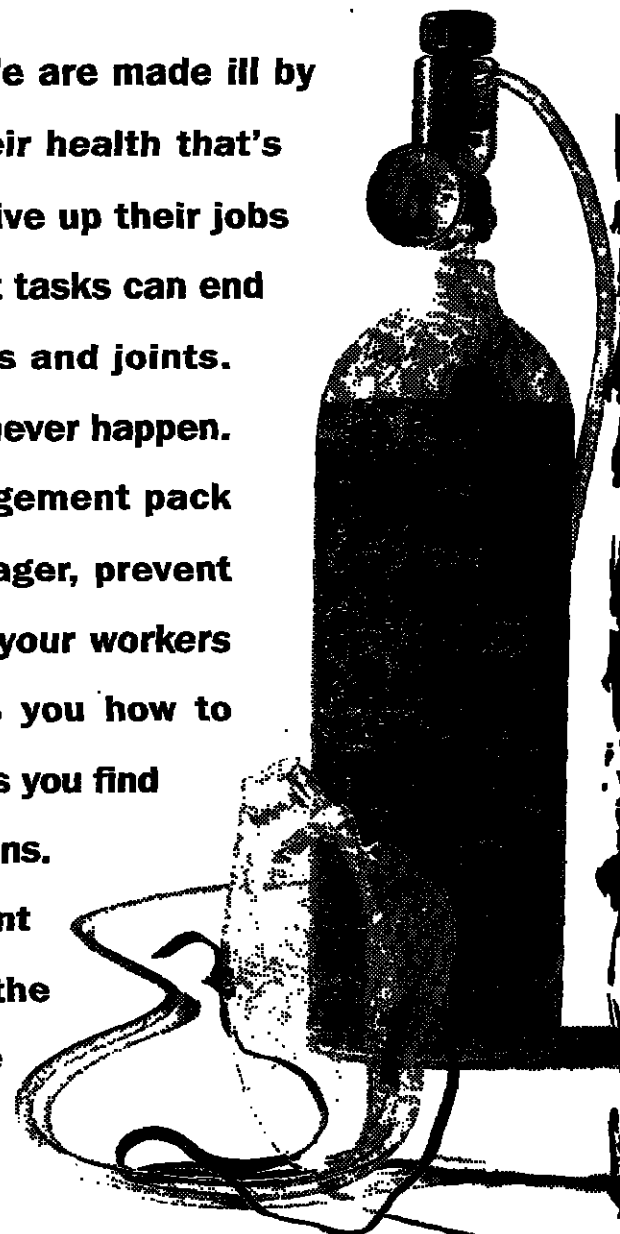
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Hendron accuses Sinn Fein of sectarianism



BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING member of the SDLP launched a scathing attack on Sinn Fein yesterday in the run-up to Thursday's election in Northern Ireland. Joe Hendron, MP for Belfast West, accused the IRA's political wing of being a "sectarian and fascist organisation".

As Dr Hendron was opening divisions among nationalists, David Trimble and the Rev Ian Paisley traded insults over who was the most fit to defend the Union at the all-party talks due to begin on June 10.

Dr Hendron, who is standing against Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein

president, in West Belfast, underlined growing nationalist anger at the IRA's failure to restore its ceasefire. In an interview to be broadcast tonight on Irish television's *Prime Time*, Dr Hendron says: "Sinn Fein are a sectarian organisation. They make the odd comment about fellow Protestant Irishmen, but basically they are a sectarian, fascist organisation."

Dr Hendron said it was difficult to distinguish between the leaders of Sinn Fein and the IRA. "I believe some Sinn Fein leaders wear two hats... I think most people would accept that as well."

The MP, who won West Belfast from Mr Adams in 1992, said he sometimes felt uncomfortable at his

party's links with Sinn Fein. However, Mr Adams' attempts to secure peace were genuine. He added: "The problem about his organisation, be it Sinn Fein or the IRA, is I don't know who the boss people are."

Dr Hendron's comments will be an embarrassment to John Hume, the SDLP leader, who has staked his political reputation on weaning Sinn Fein and the IRA away from terrorism. However, Mr Hume will also be conscious that the SDLP's links with Sinn Fein have to be cast aside in the electoral battlefield of West Belfast.

The acrimony was matched by that among Unionist leaders. Mr Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, accused Mr Trimble, of the Ulster Unionists, of treachery after the latter agreed

that the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which partitioned the island, could be up for negotiation.

Mr Trimble dismissed Mr Paisley's comments and said that the 1920 Act had largely been superseded by later legislation. The MP for Upper Bann said he would fight any attempt by nationalists to renegotiate the Act of Union of 1801, which incorporated Ireland within the United Kingdom.

Mr Trimble accused Mr Paisley of weakening Unionism by pushing the Government to introduce a list system for the election. Ulster Unionists believe the Unionist vote will be "shredded" because the system has allowed up to ten Unionist parties to contest some constituencies.

Today, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the

Northern Ireland Secretary, will discuss all-party talks with Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, in Dublin. Last week the two sides failed to reach agreement on how to discuss the issue of IRA arms.

Dublin would like arms to be decommissioned at an early stage, but believes this will not happen until the talks gain momentum in other areas. Sir Patrick insists that arms must be handed in during the talks and says that Sinn Fein must agree at the start of the talks how the issue will be discussed. Gerry Kelly, the leading republican strategist, said that Sinn Fein would monitor today's talks very closely because republicans did not want the all-party talks to be dominated by the arms issue.

Killer wife goes free from court

A battered wife who killed her drunken husband with a single stab wound hours after she began a divorce action was freed on 18 months' probation at the High Court in Edinburgh. Lord Gill told Margaret Lochrie, 35, a mother of two from Falkirk: "Imprisonment would serve no useful purpose in this case. You need help and support so you can re-establish your life and also, I hope, be a good mother to your teenage daughters."

The court was told that Mrs Lochrie had attempted suicide twice during years of violence. Her husband Edward, 43, had drink and drug problems. The stab wound severed an important vein and he bled to death.

Salmon escape

About 13,000 grown salmon escaped into the sea through a ripped net at a fish farm on the island of Rona, near Skye. Last night many were falling prey to marauding seals, but salmon environmental groups were concerned that survivors would spawn with wild salmon, producing genetically inferior stock.

Fear for mother

The missing mother of an abandoned toddler has been named as Sonia Kaur, of Walthamstow, east London. Police said they were worried about her safety. Last Thursday her 18-month-old daughter was found locked in a corridor near a nursery at a university annex in Aldenham, Hertfordshire.

Irish news

The first edition of a new national Irish evening newspaper appeared yesterday. The *Evening News* cost £1.5 million to launch and has offices in Dublin, but is printed in Birr, Co Offaly, and Ashbourne, Co Meath. It is to be taken by road to Dublin each day, where it will compete with the *Evening Herald*.

Dogs die in fire

About 50 stray dogs died after a mobile home was destroyed by fire at a farm near Alton, Hampshire. An elderly woman living in an adjoining building had taken in the stray dogs. A fire officer said: "Last night she was quite adamant she was going to stay there and find her cat, which has now come back."

Cigarette tips

Durham University wants to hear from 1,000 former smokers on how to stop the habit. Dr Philip Cheng, health studies director, said: "Smokers who have kicked the habit are the ideal people to offer advice." They may telephone 0191 374 2313 from Wednesday, 9am-5pm and 6-8pm.

Price of survival

An unpublished account by an anonymous survivor of the ill-fated British cargo ship *Trevesa* sold for 33 times more than expected at auction yesterday. The graphic story of men who survived on just a tin of water a day in 1923 fetched £2,645 at Phillips in Bristol.

Porpoise rescued

Firemen used ladders and an airbed to rescue a porpoise stranded on mudflats near Pembroke Dock. The porpoise, which had been stuck for more than four hours, was pulled ashore on the airbed and allowed to recover in an inflatable pool before being released at sea.

This way up

Traffic police who went to the aid of a Reliant Robin driver whose three-wheeler had overturned on the M3 near Winchester, Hampshire, found he had managed to right it himself and drive away. Officers, alerted to the accident by reports of traffic jams, are trying to trace the driver.

Bomber's quick march towards polling booth

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE

GERRY KELLY, a convicted IRA bomber, gives the distinct impression that his strengths lie outside the political arena as he canvasses for Sinn Fein ahead of Thursday's election in Northern Ireland.

With little time for the niceties of electioneering, Mr Kelly sweeps through nationalist estates at such a speed that voters barely have a chance to pose any awkward questions.

Mr Kelly, who is revered by republicans for his record as an IRA terrorist, is making his political debut for Sinn Fein in the North Belfast constituency in Thursday's election to all-party talks. On the stump he is still known as the man who took part in the Provisionals' first mainland bombing campaign in 1973 and as the IRA leader who orchestrated the break-out from the Maze prison in 1983.

His unusual style of canvassing was on display at the Bawnmore housing estate on the northern outskirts of the city. In a smart suit, his hair immaculately trimmed, Mr Kelly arrived punctually with a Sinn Fein minder. He told his canvassers that he was pressed for time, before set-

ting off round the estate at breakneck speed.

Mr Kelly marched up to every front door, bearing election leaflets. He paused to push a leaflet through each letterbox, pressed the doorbell and charged off before voters had a chance to greet him. He managed a smile for a group of children who pleaded with him to hand out Sinn Fein stickers and even managed to joke with a woman who said she would vote Sinn Fein with the words "Up the chucks", which is slang for the IRA.

As his fellow canvassers struggled to keep up, Mr Kelly said he was confident that Sinn Fein would perform well in the election, despite the party's vehement opposition to the poll. "We have an intelligent electorate who know this is an election nationalists did not want. But people know that if there is a mandate to be had, let us go and get it."

On the chances of a renewed IRA ceasefire — without which Sinn Fein will not be permitted to take part in the all-party talks due to start on June 10 — Mr Kelly hinted that the republican leadership was at least giving the move



Gerry Kelly, a Sinn Fein candidate in Thursday's Northern Ireland election, out canvassing for votes in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast

serious thought. He said: "The IRA has shown that it was empirical. We had an 18-month cessation, therefore they are open to persuasion."

But he insisted that John Major would have to make clear that there would be serious negotiations which

would not be dominated by the issue of IRA arms. He said: "We have no wish to get into all-party talks that will be about one issue."

With the outcome of today's Anglo-Irish meeting in Dublin being awaited by the IRA, Mr Kelly yesterday called, in

his first radio interview, for greater clarity from London on the structure of the talks if hopes of a renewed ceasefire were to be realised.

He hoped that the meeting between Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the

Irish Deputy Prime Minister, would give substance to Mr Major's remarks in a newspaper interview last week that the weapons decommissioning issue would not block all-party talks.

Dublin sources hold out little chance that today's meet-

ing will yield any breakthrough in agreeing an agenda for the talks or on decommissioning. A government spokesman said the two men were meeting to clarify differences between them and not "to send out signals" to groups like the IRA.

Prince's partnership unites party leaders

THE Prince of Wales has persuaded the leaders of the three main political parties to make a rare joint appearance, to promote one of his charities. John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown are due at St James's Palace next Tuesday for the launch of Partners for 25,000, to boost the number of young people using the Prince's Trust Volunteers.

The charity aims to help 25,000 volunteers a year by the

Millennium. The organisation provides a personal development programme to transform the lives of young people aged 16 and 25, many of them unemployed. They commit themselves to team-based projects which develop their skills, increasing their job prospects and help local communities across Britain.

The Prime Minister has already pledged the Government's support.

British dons help, to the relief of Mafikeng

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A PARTNERSHIP of academics and local government workers has won a £1 million contract to bring about the second relief of Mafikeng.

The first — when the South African town was known as Mafeking — cheered British colonial hearts as troops lifted the siege of Baden-Powell's garrison during the second Boer War. The present version, 96 years later, is intended to save the country's fledgling multicultural democracy from faltering in the North West Province, of which Mafikeng is the capital.

Staff from Liverpool University and Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council will spend two years working with provincial officials to set up new administrations. The contract, which starts in July, is part of Britain's £60 million programme for development in South Africa.

The main priority is to ensure that the black population, previously excluded from political life, can play a full part in local politics. Councils are seen as the main means of delivering better standards of living in isolated areas.

Dr Christopher Pycroft of the university said: "This contract recognises that local government is well-organised and well-managed here and that it can provide a model for the new democracy of South Africa."

Policy of EU disruption moves into top gear

FROM CHARLES BREMNER AND MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S attempt to punish her European partners for their failure to ease the beef crisis shifts into top gear this week with a series of moves aimed at disrupting the day-to-day affairs of the European Union.

Initiatives designed to limit the spread of Aids, assist refugees in Asia and Latin America, protect the environment and boost the efficiency of the single market are expected to run into the sand today as Britain drives home its policy of non-cooperation.

Later, Britain will have to decide whether to stymie long-standing attempts by finance ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, to implement measures against EU budget fraud. Under BSE "war rules", should Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, veto a regulation giving EU inspectors powers to carry out cross-frontier

checks in member states on anyone suspected of dishonest use of EU funds? As a leader in the fight against multi-billion-pound fraud, Britain has been keen to promote the measure that would allow Brussels officials to enter premises unannounced, accompanied by local police.

British officials were uncertain yesterday whether Mr Clarke would be obliged to block the measure, which will be reviewed by finance ministers next month as farm ministers thrash out the "mad cow" ban in an adjacent room.

Britain has been rather eager for these inspections, an official said. "A veto will show just how silly this campaign is."

Although the situation has not yet reached the extremes of the "empty chair" policy conducted by France in 1965-66, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made clear last

week that Britain aimed to resist all EU business. Any ministers who wanted to make an exception would have to make a strong case, he said.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Minister for Overseas Development, is expected today to halt EU programmes to combat Aids in the Third World, assist Asian and Latin American refugees and protect the environment. At the same time, Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, will be attending a Brussels ministerial council at which he is expected to resist a decision on measures aimed at streamlining the single market, another area favoured by Britain.

While EU officials have been working on ways to limit the damage from the British offensive, London has launched a counter-offensive against the publicity that BSE and its blocking campaign



Chalker is expected to disrupt three projects

have earned in the continental media. In newspaper articles published in several countries, Mr Rifkind explained that Britain wanted a "mature, level-headed approach to dealing with the beef issue, not one based on misplaced hysteria". The Brussels daily *Le Soir* published his article alongside an editorial denouncing Britain's campaign as counterproductive and potentially dangerous.

Leading article, page 17

Public 'at risk' from hygiene loophole

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

BEEF contaminated with BSE could be getting into the market because of a loophole in the hygiene regulations, environmental health officers said yesterday.

Government regulations require cows over 30 months old to be destroyed but, if the cattle are destined for the

herd's farmer or family, the rules are suspended and the meat can be eaten.

Environmental health officers fear that the loophole might be exploited by unscrupulous farmers to sell contaminated meat to friends, market traders or butchers. It might also lead to mix-ups at slaughter houses, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health claims. Ann Goodwin, a spokesman

for the institute, said it had evidence from Devon of privately slaughtered cattle being stored alongside meat for general consumption at abattoirs.

Richard Macdonald, designate director-general of the National Farmers' Union, said it would investigate the problem, although it had only just been made aware of it. But he said: "I think we're talking about a very, very

minor problem." Only a few hundred cattle were involved and the carcasses would still have the specified bovine offal removed.

Timothy Boswell, the Agriculture Minister, said it was perfectly lawful for someone to slaughter their own animals for personal consumption. "But they would be breaking the law if they offered any of that meat for public sale."

Village grieves as second shipwreck body is found

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE village of Dunure on the Ayrshire coast was in mourning yesterday as a second body was found from the weekend's shipwreck. Hope faded of finding two other men. Clyde Coastguard called off its air and sea search yesterday morning and Strathclyde police divers began searching around the hull of the dredger *Equinox*, which sank in 70ft of water a mile from the coast on Saturday night.

Among the four fishermen on board was Paul Blake, 27, who lived in Dunure with Pamela Crossan, 28, the only survivor, and her six-year-old daughter. Mr Blake and the skipper Sean Ritchie, 27, of Maybole, Strathclyde are still missing. The

body of Darren White, 19, of Mossblown, was pulled from the water yesterday and that of Derek Bryden, 26, of Ayr, was recovered on Sunday. Marine accident inspectors began an investigation and a fatal accident inquiry will be held later.

Miss Crossan was in a stable condition yesterday in Ayr Hospital, where she is being treated for exhaustion and swallowing water after a four-hour swim in freezing conditions. Donald McNeill, chief executive of the hospital, said: "She is clearly very emotionally distressed."

Miss Crossan, who has spoken at length to police, spent yesterday with her daughter Kayleigh, her parents, Tom and Patricia, and her brothers and sister. She is reported to have told relatives that she was in the wheelhouse when one of the boat's

cables snapped and everyone was hurled into the water. The boat sank within minutes and the crew, none of whom was wearing a lifejacket, started swimming.

She could not see her friends but at first heard them singing and shouting. As time passed she realised there was silence and, thinking of her daughter, started swimming to the shore where holidaymakers from Butlins near Ayr pulled her from the water early on Sunday.

This is the second fishing accident to strike Dunure in three years. In December 1993 a neighbour of Miss Crossan, skipper David Edgar, 47, and his mate Robert Andrews, 31, drowned when their boat went down in poor weather. Their bodies were never found.

But the sinking of the *Equinox* at

10.30pm on Saturday was unexpected. Conditions were calm and friends said that Mr Ritchie had taken the 32ft clam dredger out on the spur of the moment. Some believe he was trying to earn money after a week of poor catches, but others say it was a pleasure trip. Miss Crossan, whose daughter was staying with her mother, went as a passenger.

Yesterday Dunure, dominated by the ruins of a 14th-century castle, was bathed in Bank Holiday sunshine. The few shops were closed as residents started to come to terms with the loss but dozens of tourists picnicked in a park overlooking the bright blue sea. Despite the calm allure of the water, there were none of the usual pleasure boats.

Neighbours of Miss Crossan and Mr Blake spoke of their shock

yesterday. His elder brothers, Michael and Billy, spent Sunday night in the search. When all hope seemed lost they returned to comfort their parents, Bill and Maud.

Angela Kelly, who lives next door to Miss Crossan and Mr Blake, said: "Paul and Pamela have been living next door for about two years. They are very popular folk and he is one of those guys that everyone gets on with. This is an absolute tragedy."

Other neighbours, Neil and Marlene Sinclair, said that Mr Blake normally worked on another vessel, *Constant Faith*, and was an experienced fisherman. "We didn't even know he was going out on Saturday night. Everyone is shattered. Paul was a brilliant character, very lively and happy-go-lucky. We still can't believe this has happened."

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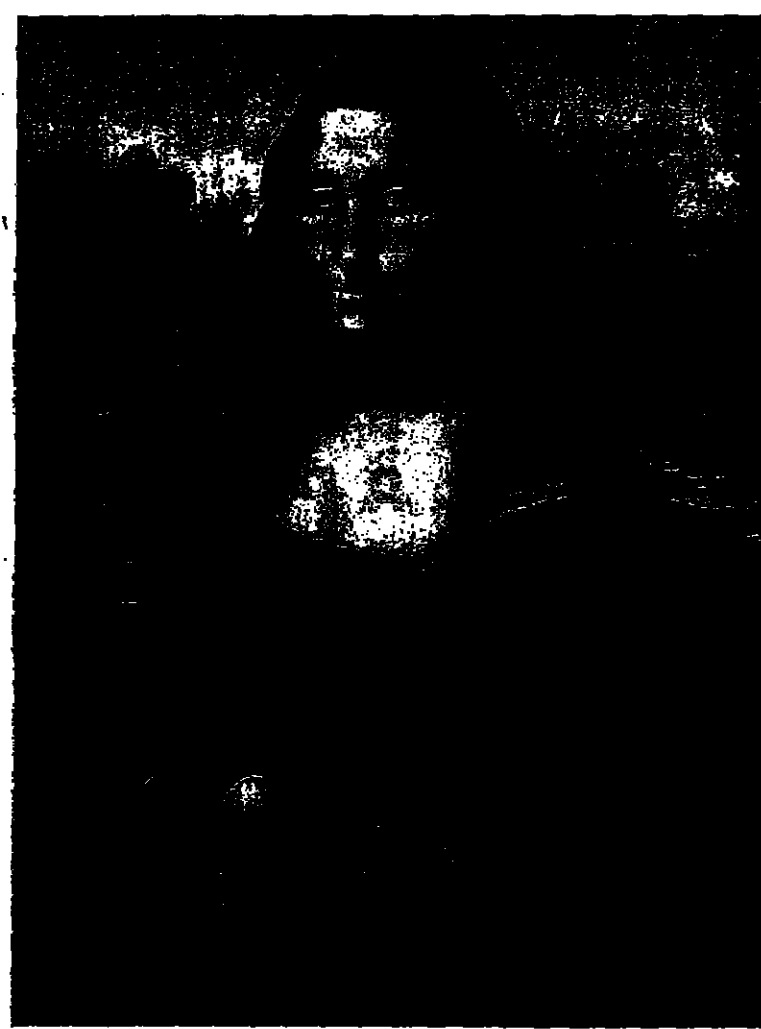
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Police seek wider use of CS sprays after trial run

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers on the beat may soon carry CS sprays as standard equipment, first results from field trials by 16 forces suggest. As chief constables prepare interim reports this week, three months into a six-month pilot scheme, a survey by *The Times* shows that the sprays are being used three times a day.

The latest figures show they have been used 261 times in the 12 weeks and many forces are enthusiastic about their issue. The sprays were introduced for several thousand officers in March after calls for better protection for police against assault.

Surrey and Hertfordshire withdrew from the trials expressing doubts about the safety of using CS and at least one other chief constable has privately expressed doubts. The trials show, however, that officers are reporting a drop in injuries and claim the sprays are an effective deterrent.

Police say officers often halt trouble merely by drawing the sprays from their belts and preparing to use them. Forces report a handful of complaints about the use of CS and none reported long-term injury.

One death in London has been linked to the sprays and an investigation was held after allegations that they were used unnecessarily on a coach in Merseyside. Police defended their actions in both cases and the death has been attributed to a heart condition.

Every force issued with the sprays has used them, but the survey shows a wide variation in frequency. While 1,300 Metropolitan officers testing them

have used the sprays 27 times, 110 Cleveland officers have used them 68 times.

Cleveland said that the sprays were being used in one of the roughest areas in the country as police coped with a large number of nightclub customers. Up to 7,000 people could be on the streets in the early hours and the trial area could not be compared with those of rural forces. Neighbouring North Yorkshire has used the sprays five times.

Cleveland said the sprays had been drawn but not used 40 times. The force had received five complaints, none involving allegations of injury. There have been no assaults on police since the start of the trials, compared with 11 cases in the corresponding period last year.

In London, the sprays are being used by six divisions and Scotland Yard said there had been two complaints. A



Just drawing the spray often halts trouble

spokesman said the low usage suggested that officers were showing restraint.

The West Midlands force has used the spray 36 times and Merseyside 35 times. Superintendent John Stevenson, who is overseeing the trials in Wolverhampton, said: "It has been well received by officers. The very fact that you draw it causes people to back away. It has a very calming effect."

David Ford, Merseyside's Chief Inspector, said that 20 officers faced with the spray had given up rather than fight. "We have comments from officers with 20 years' experience who say it is the best bit of defence equipment they have ever had."

West Mercia is testing the sprays in Hereford, where officers have used them six times. In one incident a spray was used to stop a mentally ill man from harming himself.

Liberty, the civil rights group, said that it was monitoring use of the sprays. It was concerned that nobody was sure of the medical effects and that it was not known if police kept to guidelines.

The group is concerned by the case of Ibrahim Sey, 29, who died after being sprayed while handcuffed during an incident at an east London police station in March. The death was blamed on heart disease.

Liberty is also worried by the Merseyside incident in March when coach passengers were sprayed during a fight with police. The guidelines say the spray should not be used in confined spaces.



Thousands of rounds were fired by both sides during the two days of the Battle of Jutland, but neither was able to claim victory

Old men of the sea recall how bloody Battle of Jutland changed their lives

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SURVIVORS of the Battle of Jutland, the only major encounter between the British and German fleets in the First World War, will this week recall their experiences of 80 years ago. The bloody confrontation lasted for two days, from May 31 to June 1, 1916, and proved a victory for neither side.

Some of the sailors on board the Royal Navy warships were as young as 15. Today they remember the deafening sound of gunfire, their first sight of dead bodies floating on the water, and the confusion of battle as great warships closed in anger.

Ordinary Seaman Bert Pester, the oldest surviving naval rating from the battle, is 102. Born in Whitestone, Devon, on August 26, 1894, he was 21 when serving as a steward in the battleship *HMS Centurion*, part of the Second Battle Squadron.

"When we went into action at Jutland, *Centurion* was in line behind *King George V* and ahead of *Ajax*. My job was to deliver shells from the magazine to the gunners."

"Down below we could hear all the firing going on and at one point I was on deck and saw one of the big ships go down. We heard later that they had saved most of the men but there were many bodies in the water."

The battle took place in the Skagerrak, an arm of the North Sea about 60 miles off the coast of Jutland, Denmark. Admirals John Rushworth Jellicoe and David Beatty had been alerted that Admiral Reinhard Scheer



Then and now: Pester, de Courcy-Ireland, Layard and St John Fancourt

had left port with his German High Seas Fleet and went out to meet it. Both sides opened fire about 4pm. The British suffered heavy losses, with many collisions and sinkings.

Midshipman Brian de Courcy-Ireland, now 96, later rose to the rank of captain. He was 15 when he was appointed to *HMS Bellerophon*, a

Dreadnought of the Fourth Battle Squadron based at Scapa Flow. From his home near Painswick, Gloucestershire, he said: "On May 31 I was positioned in one of the 12in turrets. We went into action sometime after five o'clock. I reckon *Bellerophon* fired about 100 rounds of 12in. At one point we were rung up to be told we had sunk a German destroyer."

He added: "During a lull we came out of the turret to get some fresh air and there, floating around us, was a whole mass of bodies and debris. Some of our sailors were cheering because they thought they were Germans but they were from the [flagship] *Invincible*. It was a terrible sight and my first experience of death."

He knew little about the result of the battle until he

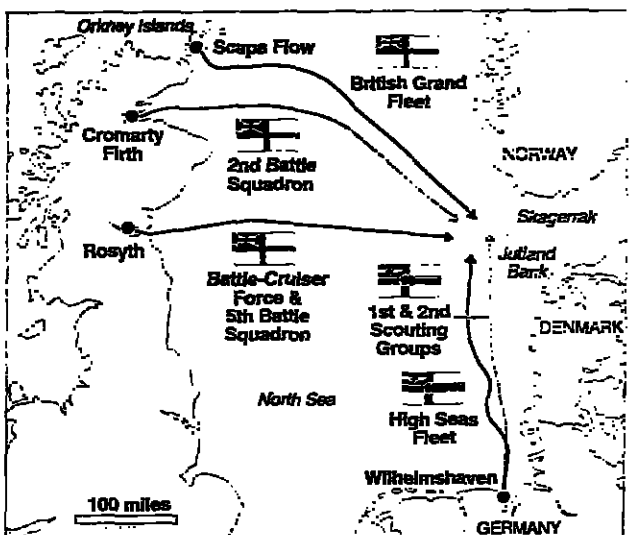
returned home to read "bad reports" in the press and the list of casualties, which included 13 of his friends.

Midshipman Frank Layard, another teenage sailor, was on submarine watch on board *HMS Indomitable*, part of the Third Battle Cruiser Squadron, when called to action stations. He remembered three German cruisers appearing on the starboard side and *Indomitable* opening fire from 10,000 yards. The German ships turned away but fired torpedoes. "I saw a torpedo with its red warhead and propellers slowly revolving, passing down our port side on the surface not more than 10 yards from us. It was a very near miss."

Midshipman Layard, who rose to commander and now lives in Chichester, West Sussex, heard the terrible explosion as *HMS Invincible* was hit by two salvos and blew in half with the loss of more than 1,000 lives. "It was a grim and very sad moment."

Midshipman Henry St John Fancourt served on *HMS Princess Royal*, part of the First Battle Cruiser Squadron, at the age of 16. He now lives in Hampshire. He said that when they returned home "there was no great excitement. We hadn't decimated the Germans, it was not Trafalgar. People didn't throw their arms around you and say wonderful things about you. It really wasn't a satisfactory battle. A lot of things went wrong."

Interview extracts from *The True Glory: The Royal Navy 1914 to 1939*, by Max Arthur, to be published by Hodder & Stoughton in October.



Brother tells of strain on road-rage victim's family

By STEWART TENDLER

THE brother of the murdered motorist Stephen Cameron renewed a plea for public help yesterday after police said that somebody may be shielding the killer.

Michael Cameron, 33, said the thought that someone was protecting the man who stabbed his brother through the heart "made things very hard" for the family. "I hope that person contacts the police with information for my family's sake and for the sake of my brother. As time drags on, Stephen's death is just hitting my parents harder and harder."

Police believe that the killer may have fled with bruises

and grazes after fighting his victim. They appealed for information from people who may have seen his injuries.

Stephen Cameron, 21, was travelling in a Bedford Rascal van driven by his fiancée, Danielle Cable, 17, when they were overtaken by a dark, L-registered Land Rover Discovery. At the traffic lights at junction three of the M25 at Swanley, Kent, the other driver punched Mr Cameron as he got out of the van, stabbed him twice and drove off towards the Dartford Tunnel.

Detective Superintendent John Grace, leading the investigation, said: "From witnesses at the scene, it seems that blows were exchanged. We are now quite sure there was some

form of fight, perhaps with Stephen defending himself. The offender may well have some minor injury."

"We believe there are possibly one or two people who do know who did this. It might be a wife, a girlfriend or a close friend. We believe somebody has a very strong suspicion, and maybe it is playing on their conscience."

The murder squad at Dartford is continuing to trace almost 17,500 L-registered Land Rover Discoveries and sifting through dozens of names of possible suspects.

Two men are being questioned after a toy gun was produced in a road-rage incident on a slip-road to the A14 at Milton, near Cambridge.

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'Insensitive' TV adverts shown after Dunblane

TELEVISION commercials shown in the days after the Dunblane massacre were criticised as insensitive yesterday. Among the offending advertisements was one for Persil which showed parents discussing a toy gun which their child kept on his bed.

Television companies are supposed to vet advertisements and not to show any which could be upsetting after important news stories. The Persil advertisement was shown five days after the Dunblane killings, in which 16 children were shot.

An advertisement for Woolworth's showed children sad at seeing their clothes put away and had Tommy Cooper singing *We'll Meet Again* in the background. The Independent Television Commission decided that it had been wrong to show it on the day of the shootings and on the next two days. An advertisement for Lee jeans and a trailer for the John Travolta film *Get Shorty*, both shown on Channel 4, featured people firing guns. Channel 4 had not shown them in Scotland.

The Woolworth's advertisement, broadcast by Meridian and Channel Television, had been banned around news programmes but allowed at other times. The commission said: "Without wishing in any way to underestimate the difficulty of making judgments about the emotional impact of advertisements in special circumstances such as these, the ITC judged that, on balance, the complaint was justified and should be upheld."

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Yeltsin pulls off peace with rebels

Poll hopes lifted by Chechen deal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday concluded a historic peace agreement with his former Chechen rebel foe, when the two sides pledged to halt all hostilities permanently from June 1.

After two hours of talks in the Kremlin, beaming Chechen and Russian leaders both pledged to make the agreement stick. Details of how the deal will be implemented on the ground will be resolved in follow-up discussions scheduled for today between military experts.

"We have resolved the key problem of peace in Chechnya," said President Yeltsin, who clearly hopes that the peace accord will boost his re-election hopes with less than three weeks before polling day. "This is a historic day, a historic moment."

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen rebel leader, who was still sporting his combat fatigues and traditional astrakhan hat when he set off for the Moscow peace talks, said that the Chechen people were united in supporting the peace deal. The agreement was signed by Mr Yandarbiyev and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister.

The peace accord avoided the thorny question of Chechen sovereignty, the basis of the 17-month conflict in the breakaway republic, and instead concentrated on concrete ways of halting the fighting. It provides for all hostilities to cease at midnight on May 31. In the coming two weeks all Chechen detainees

held by the Russians are to be released and all Russian prisoners held by the separatists are to be freed.

Even before the talks began, both sides had announced a three-day ceasefire and it is expected that the final agreement will set out the details of a Russian troop withdrawal and the disarming and dispersing of rebel units. The agreement appeared to be a variation of the same deal accepted last year, but which collapsed after renewed hostilities. In that instance there was a clear lack of political will in both Moscow and in the separatist leadership to make the agreement stick.

Now, however, President Yeltsin will be staking his own reputation and his re-election hopes on the peace accord holding firm — at least until the June 16 polling day and probably until July 7, the likely run-off date between the two leading candidates in the election. Kremlin aides said that they were hopeful that the moderates among the Chechen leadership would be able to keep their side of the bargain.

Although there are individual Chechen commanders who have reservations about making any deals with the Kremlin leader, most concluded that they would gain more from President Yeltsin in the run-up to his tough re-election race than after the polling.

It is also widely acknowledged that, no matter how bad the present situation, a Communist President in the Kremlin



Boris Yeltsin greets Doku Zavgayev, leader of the Moscow-backed Chechen Government, before the talks

could be even more ruthless than the incumbent, particularly with regard to human rights violations and the freedom of the press to cover the conflict.

As for the Russian leader, he is expected to follow up the peace agreement with further popular moves, like the long-awaited sacking of General Pavel Grachev, his unpopular Defence Minister. Many Russians blame the former paratrooper for the brutality and incompetence of the military campaign in the Caucasus. He is likely to be replaced by General Boris Gromov, a

popular retired general turned politician who led Soviet forces out of Afghanistan.

If yesterday's peace agreement does finally silence the guns in Chechnya, it could be enough to clinch a re-election victory for President Yeltsin, who admitted himself that the conflict was both his biggest disappointment and political liability.

Already, through his exhausting campaign schedule, his manipulation of the powers of his office and his seemingly healthy and confident demeanour, the Russian leader seems headed for victory against Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader and his main challenger.

According to the weekly current affairs programme *Izvestiya*, two polls released on Sunday showed the Russian leader ahead. The first result gave President Yeltsin 31 per cent support, while 27 per cent said that they would back Mr Zyuganov. In a second round run-off, 43 per cent said that they would back Mr Yeltsin and 32 per cent said they would support his Communist rival.

The second poll showed the Kremlin leader ahead by 33 per cent to Mr Zyuganov's 26 per cent. In a second round, if forecast he would win with 50 per cent to 37 per cent.

The leader of the Russian-backed Chechen Government, Doku Zavgayev, attended yesterday's talks. In the past, the rebels have refused to meet him, but they were willing to view him as a member of the Russian delegation.

An estimated 30,000 people have been killed since December 1994, when Russian troops went into Chechnya, in southern Russia's Caucasus Mountains, to put down its separatist drive.

Dutch in pillory as EU cracks down on drugs

FROM ROGER BOYES IN AMSTERDAM

IT WAS breakfast as usual at the Grasshopper Café. The hungry visitor could settle down to a cup of strong coffee and a toasted sandwich. Not to mention Skunk, Sputnik and Red Algerian. And, perhaps, a slice of Space Mushroom Pie to follow.

The menu in Amsterdam's coffee shops — semi-legal outlets for cannabis — are great curiosities. About 600,000 people in The Netherlands make use of the liberal policy on soft drugs, and the general view in the country is that it is working. "We have broken the automatic passage from soft to hard drugs," claims Ton Cramer, a drug specialist at the Dutch Health Ministry.

But this is not the line taken by the country's European partners. Not everybody would go as far as the French deputy, neo-Gaullist Paul Masson, who labelled The Netherlands a "narco-state". There is trouble brewing, however. The cloud of smoke drifting out of establishments like the Grasshopper threatens the new ordering of the European Union. The liberal drugs policy in The Netherlands has certainly exposed some of the weaknesses of the Schengen pact providing for a frontier-free Europe.

France last month reaffirmed its decision to keep border controls with Belgium and Luxembourg, claiming it was the only way to block drugs coming across. Jacques Myard, a French National Assembly deputy, has called for trade sanctions against the Dutch.

The Germans are less openly hostile, but the practical impact is all too obvious to those who regularly cross the Dutch-German border. Mobile German police controls are stopping cars on the A61, a few miles beyond the Dutch border. If the traveller is in the target group — 18 to 30-year-olds in battered cars — the chances are high that the police will body-search the passengers.

This is not exactly in keeping with the spirit of a new Europe, and the Dutch suspect that they are being used as a scapegoat by European Union member states which are reluctant to abandon national border controls and even

more unwilling to concede their reluctance. French drug confiscation figures suggest that far more drugs are coming into France through Spain rather than The Netherlands — France has an open border with Spain and, of course, no border at all with The Netherlands.

The sharp tone of the French criticism suggests that North-South conflict may be under way in Europe with Paris, as champion of the Mediterranean region, unwilling to admit that much of Europe's drug problem can be traced to North Africa.

The Dutch have made some concessions. Dozens of coffee houses have been closed down (though there are still more than 2,000) and the amount of cannabis allowed for personal consumption has been cut from 30 g to 5 g.

The Social Democratic Party favours handing out heroin on prescription. The same mood prevails in a few north German states, which are urging the Dutch not to buckle under to pressure from the French or even the Federal German Government.

There is thus a pitched battle under way between liberalisers and the hardliners, a conflict that seems to be out of step with attempts by the EU to liberalise and deregulate its more conventional trade and to make frontiers meaningless.



Rolling a joint is part of Amsterdam café society

Swiss envoy built bridge between enemies

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN GROZNY

THE unprecedented meeting between President Yeltsin and the leader of the Chechen separatists is the fruit of months of painstaking negotiations by a Swiss diplomat.

When Tim Guldinmann, the head of the Grozny mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and a Swiss politics professor, took up his post at the start of the year, relations between the mission and the separatists were "less than zero", one

diplomat said. The organisation had brokered and then fumbled a military truce last summer.

The mission risked being fatally damaged when its Hungarian participant, Sandor Meszaros, had a car accident and his deputy, Olivier Pellen, took over. M Pellen clashed frequently with the Chechens and in December their then Vice-President, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, signed an order for the arrest of any OSCE mission members found on his territory.

Professor Guldinmann set about re-

gaining goodwill with the help of the mission's longest-serving member, Zenon Kuchciak, a Pole. In March Mr Yeltsin set up a commission to regulate the conflict under the chairmanship of his dovish Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Shutting between Moscow and a string of safe houses and forest rendezvous in the hills of southern Chechnya, the Swiss diplomat discovered there was new enthusiasm for a truce. The Chechens' main demand was that Mr Yeltsin absolve himself from involvement in the death of their uncompromising

leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev. Both sides agreed that the issue of Chechen sovereignty should be "put to one side" and they would focus on a military agreement.

The seal on the historic meeting was set at a two-day meeting of the entire Chechen leadership, attended by Mr Guldinmann, in the mountain village of Vedeno. The Chechens put forward one last proviso — that the two leading OSCE diplomats would accompany their delegation all the way from the hills of Chechnya to the halls of the Kremlin in Moscow.

Communists narrow gap in Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RIGHTWINGERS managed to maintain a slender lead over moderate Communists after Greek Cypriot parliamentary elections.

All the major parties have endorsed United Nations proposals to reunite the island under a federal system, but any fresh ideas to break the 22-year stalemate will come from British, European, American and UN envoys, who are due in Cyprus in the coming weeks.

The final results from Sunday's election gave the right-wing Democratic Rally (Disy) party 34.5 per cent of the vote. But it was the jubilant Communist Akel party that claimed victory. It alone boosted its share of the vote, winning 33 per cent and 19 parliamentary seats. Disy's junior coalition partner, the centre-right Diko party, lost one of its ten seats.

Vote signals end of coalition in Turkey

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S pro-Islamic Welfare Party, in a move aimed at toppling the coalition Government of Mesut Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, called yesterday for an emergency no-confidence debate on Thursday. Although the vote may be delayed, it is likely to spell the end of the present administration.

Senior members of the True Path party indicated that they would support the censure vote, even though their party had formed a part of the Government until last Friday. Their leader, Tansu Ciller, the former Prime Minister, withdrew from the coalition after Mr Yilmaz's Motherland Party had accused her of corruption.

The no-confidence vote represents another bid for power by the Welfare Party, who came first in December elections but failed to gather enough votes to rule alone. A Motherland-True Path coalition

was formed in March to keep out the Islamists. Mrs Ciller's party and the Welfare Party together have enough votes to topple the beleaguered Mr Yilmaz.

The level of animosity between Mrs Ciller and Mr Yilmaz has intensified over the last few days. She has called the Prime Minister a liar and a good-for-nothing, while Mr Yilmaz has supported a Welfare Party motion to have Mrs Ciller investigated for corruption.

Analysts suggested that Mr Yilmaz was waiting to see whether Mrs Ciller would face an uprising in her own party. There have reportedly been moves by Motherland Party officials to persuade True Path members to find a new leader.

Meanwhile, opinion polls showed that True Path had no chance of winning any of the mayoral races in four cities during by-elections on Sunday.



All smiles but bad teeth made Franco crotchety

Dentists tell grim secret of Franco

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

GENERAL FRANCO'S stern conservatism and crotchety temper should be attributed largely to bad teeth, according to an unusual biography.

In a 400-page book published yesterday, Julio González Iglesias, professor of odontology at the University of Madrid, has embarked on what the dust-jacket describes as a "patho-biography" of General Francisco Franco, through the revelations of his dentists.

The book, called *Los Dientes de Franco* (Franco's Teeth), provides a dentist's view into the mouth of the man who was Spain's Caudillo or "Supreme Chief" for 36 years, and is lavishly illustrated with close-up photographs of General Franco's mouth and samples of his chipped teeth.

According to the author, who has pored over the dictator's dental records and spoken to every living dentist from whom he received treatment, Franco suffered throughout his adult life from caries, pericoronaritis, periodontitis, abscesses, fungus of the palate and frequent ulcers.

Franco's mouth was always seeping pus, and this constant torment made him bad-tempered and aloof, and may have produced a profound sense of sexual insecurity. Intriguingly, the book also suggests that the life-long fear of losing all his teeth may have greatly heightened Franco's political conservatism.

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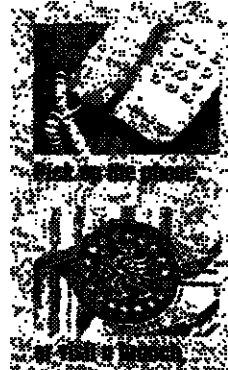


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Hindu party sees its short hold on power fade away

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S Hindu nationalist Government, barely two weeks old, looks certain to be toppled today in the continuing chaos of this month's inconclusive general election. Power is likely to shift to a southerner, H. D. Deve Gowda, who speaks hardly a word of Hindi, making him incomprehensible to most Indians.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the shortest-serving Prime Minister in independent India, last night appeared resigned to being defeated in a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament). His Government faces the forces of a hurriedly assembled centre-left alliance, the United Front, backed by the defeated Congress Party.

The brief taste of power for his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has an extremist and anti-Muslim record, has paved the way for its possible victory in the next general election. That may come sooner than later. In the meantime Mr Gowda looks set to become the Prime Minister.

Mr Gowda, Chief Minister of Karnataka, speaks Kannada, the language of his state. His command of English, the lingua franca, is less than

fluent, and he will find himself hampered in the English and Hindi-dominated world of Delhi politics. Most Indians had never heard of him before he was thrust forward as the prime ministerial candidate of a host of political parties that have joined hands in a fragile alliance under the United Front banner.

The Congress Party, routed in the election, says it will support a new minority government without joining it, a tenuous arrangement that seems to be a recipe for instability; the new Government is unlikely to last anything like a full term. A crucial question is whether it will have the strength and commitment to push through vital but unpopular economic reforms.

These would involve confrontations with powerful trade unions. More than 70 per cent of Indian industry is publicly owned and all parties agree in principle with the need to shut down uneconomic sectors and to sell off some profitable ones. Mr Gowda is a free marketer, promoting his own state so aggressively it has risen to the second favourite place, after Gujarat, for foreign investment in India.

Mr Vajpayee, who has been trying to project a more moderate image of the BJP, opened the debate on the confidence vote with a flourishing speech. He said the United Front had come together solely for the purpose of bringing down his Government, and noted that the parties belonging to it had fought the election without any common programme. Nor did they have one now.

He added that in its brief time in power the BJP had "proved that there were no spots on any of our actions". This amounted to a denial that it tried to bribe MPs and regional parties with cash and promises of political concessions in return for parliamentary support. Privately, however, many MPs said they were approached with substantial offers.

If the BJP is defeated today, President Sharma will formally ask P.V. Narasimha Rao, leader of the Congress Party, if he can command a majority on the floor of parliament. Mr Rao's party is the biggest after the BJP but substantially smaller than the combined forces of the new United Front. He will decline the invitation and the mantle is then likely to pass to Mr Gowda.



Atal Behari Vajpayee arrives at Parliament House in Delhi yesterday to open the debate on the no-confidence motion against his minority Government

Bangui mutineers bow to French military action

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN ARMY mutiny in the Central African Republic appeared to be petering out last night after France's swift military intervention in support of the country's President, Ange-Félix Patassé.

After talks with French military mediators, the 200 mutineers released civilian hostages and agreed to return to barracks, while President Patassé offered amnesty for those involved in the rebellion which erupted ten days ago when presidential guards tried to disarm army units.

The rebels have yet to lay down their arms and diplomats said Bangui remained tense yesterday after widespread looting and at least 50 deaths. An additional 25 US Marines were flown in to bolster those guarding the US Embassy.

The French Foreign Ministry said that the decision to deploy troops in the capital and send in reinforcements had been justified to protect French nationals. More than 1,000 foreign citizens have been evacuated. "We have fulfilled our mission and our duty," Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, said.

The former dictator, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, declared his support for the mutineers and attacked France for using its military power to end the rebellion. Dressed in the uniform of a French field marshal, the former Emperor, 74, told French television from his home in Bangui that he backed the rebels 100 per cent.

The former ruler seized power in 1966 and was deposed in a French-backed coup in 1979. He returned from exile in 1986 and was accused of cannibalism and child-killing. Sentenced to 20

years in prison for murder and embezzlement, he was released after six years.

France's action in the republic and its role in mediating an end to the fighting have been praised in Paris as proof that the French military is still the best defence for democracy in its former colonies. But public opinion in Bangui turned against the military intervention after French troops opened fire on the radio station, reportedly killing nine civilians.

The ambivalence of France's military relations with its former colonies has been vividly demonstrated by the changing "official" version of events in Bangui.

When the mutiny erupted, Foreign Ministry officials declared that French troops would not become involved in the fighting since their primary mission was to protect French nationals. Within days, however, reinforced French troops were fighting the rebels alongside government troops and the official aim had changed from "protecting the population" to "defending democracy" and finally "crushing the mutiny", though this last objective was later retracted.

France's defence agreement with the Central African Republic covers only external aggression, not internal threats, and the mutineers have expressed surprise at the French reaction.

Jacques Godfrain, the Co-operation Minister, argued that defence treaties with former African colonies should be broadened to let France intervene when its citizens are seen to be under threat.

Leading article, page 17

BALANCE OF FRENCH FORCES IN AFRICA		
State	Troops	Senegal
DJIBOUTI	3,400	
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	1,200	
SENEGAL	1,200	
IVORY COAST	1,200	
CHAD	800	
GABON	400	

Peres says Likud win will destroy peace process

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON PERES, Israel's Labour Prime Minister, issued a dramatic warning yesterday that a victory for the Right in tomorrow's election would destroy the Middle East peace process as polls showed the Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, closing the gap in the race for the premiership.

Mr Peres's prediction came as influential rabbis ordered ultra-orthodox Jewish voters to support Mr Netanyahu in the country's direct elections for the post, and a senior Israeli Arab adviser to Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, pre-



dicted a right-wing victory. The erosion of Mr Peres's already precarious lead in polls published only 48 hours before voting came amid claims by many influential Israeli commentators that he had been outperformed in Sunday's television debate by

Mr Netanyahu, who underlined Israel's fears about security and gave a more forceful impression.

With many young, left-wing Israelis openly talking about emigration in the event of a Likud victory, Mr Peres, 72, appealed for support, claiming that the Jewish state could miss "a window of opportunity" for ending decades of Arab-Israeli conflict. "They are the most essential, shall I say, the most crucial elections in the history of the state of Israel," said the Prime Minister, who has lost four previous general elections.

In a move to jerk the peace camp out of its complacency and encourage support among Israeli Arabs, who

make up at least 12 per cent of the electorate, Mr Peres added: "If the other party wins the elections, it will return to the construction of settlements and this, in turn, will bring a halt to the peace process."

The Likud leader has pledged to spend a billion shekels (£217 million) of state funds on expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, much of it cash at present earmarked for the impoverished Palestinian economy. He has also vowed to send back troops to the autonomous areas on search-and-destroy missions, and expel Palestinian institutions by force from occupied east Jerusalem.

"I think it will be terrible if

the peace process will be interrupted or stopped and we shall go backwards," Mr Peres said, hours before the last TV advertisements permitted by law were screened. "It will be extremely difficult later on to correct it."

While two separate polls on the outcome of the 30-minute debate showed conflicting results about the winner, they had a large margin of error and even supporters of the Labour Party expressed fears that Mr Netanyahu, known as Bibi, an American-trained master of the CNN soundbite, had won the confrontation.

"Bibi put more emphasis on the security issue and Peres had no answer," complained Rafi Ivgi, a Peres supporter

from the prosperous Tel Aviv suburb of Rasanana.

One poll conducted just before Sunday's crucial debate among a sample of 1,031 voters and published in the mass circulation *Yediot Achronot* daily showed Mr Peres with 49.5 per cent and Mr Netanyahu with 47.1 per cent, compared with 51 per cent for Mr Peres and 45 per cent for Mr Netanyahu in the previous poll.

"You can almost feel the last-minute trend to Likud," one Israeli journalist said. The outcome of tomorrow's vote is still too close to call. But Likud activists argued that the large floating vote would swing the Right's way in the closing stages.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two British troops hurt in Bosnia

Sarajevo: Two British soldiers were seriously injured when their vehicle ran off the road into a ravine in central Bosnia, a spokesman for the Nato-led peace implementation force said yesterday. The two, whose names were not disclosed, have been flown back to Britain.

The spokesman said the accident followed an apparent brake failure while the two men were on a routine mission on Sunday morning. One soldier has face injuries and is still unconscious, the other has a pelvic fracture. (Reuters)

Tirana protest

Tirana: Albanian opposition parties, who boycotted the weekend's elections, urged their supporters to take to the streets of the capital to demand "clean and fair" elections. (Reuters)

Ukraine sacking

Kiev: The office of President Kuchma of Ukraine said he had sacked Yevhen Marchuk, his Prime Minister, blaming him for a growing economic crisis. Mr Marchuk will remain an MP. (Reuters)

Miners killed

Peking: A gas explosion at a coal mine in Hunan province killed 46 miners and left 38 missing, while flooding in a lead and zinc mine in Gansu province killed 33, reports just released said. (Reuters)

Fighting words

Harare: A senior official from Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) party bit off most of the bottom lip of a backer of another faction of the party at a meeting in the eastern city of Mutare.

Double death

Perth: William and John Bloomfield, Australian identical twins who were inseparable in life, died together only minutes apart, aged 61, while watching a body-building championship. (AP)

Tiananmen official moved from jail to house arrest

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

BAO TONG, a former aide to Zhao Ziyang, the ousted Chinese leader, was freed from prison yesterday but placed under virtual house arrest until the seventh anniversary of the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking's Tiananmen Square on next Tuesday had passed.

Mr Bao, 63, the highest-ranking Chinese official arrested in the Tiananmen Square crackdown, was taken to a village in the western hills near Peking after being released from prison and would remain there for eight to ten days, said relatives, who added that the authorities had warned them not to speak to the foreign press.

Mr Bao's wife, son, older sister and younger brother visited him at the small,

freshly painted house yesterday where security was tight.

The official Chinese news agency said that Mr Bao had been released "in good health", although his family said his health was not very good. "They are holding him because of June 4," his daughter, Bao Jian, said after seeing her father.

Mr Bao, the key assistant to Mr Zhao, the toppled Communist Party chief, was released after serving a seven-year-jail term for allegedly leaking state secrets and for "counter-revolutionary incitement".

Although China is politically calm at this time of sharp economic growth — most human rights activists being either in jail or exile — public security officials are always nervous that the Tiananmen anniversary could spark com-

memorative activities or even some protests.

Mr Bao was arrested on May 29, 1989, just days before Peking sent tanks and troops into Tiananmen Square to crush student demonstrations that had lasted five weeks.

His wife, Jiang Zongao, said recently that she hoped her husband would be released immediately. "My family and I miss him very much," she added. "In the past seven years, days wore on like years."

Mr Bao's family said that he had jaw and neck ailments and intestinal polyps that required operations, as well as swollen lymph nodes that could indicate cancer.

His mentor and patron, Mr Zhao, lives under house arrest in Peking, venturing out occasionally to play golf.

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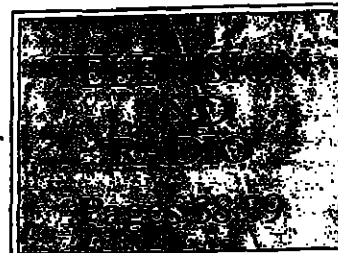
LAW 29, 31, 32

John Hayes breaks
his silence on the
Law Society debate



BUSINESS 34-40

Jack Fallow leads
an employee buyout
from British Gas



THE TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 28 1996

2

Sidhu jumps ship as India suffer defeat in Texaco Trophy at Old Trafford

Bold Brown proves big hit for England

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD (India won the toss): England beat India by four wickets

THE swaggering style of Alistair Brown has commanded a eulogistic following ever since he made his entrance to county cricket four seasons ago and the clamour for his international induction was richly vindicated at Old Trafford yesterday. Brown's century ensured that England would take the Texaco Trophy in emphatic fashion, lifting the spirits of a team that, only a few short months ago, had lost its sense of purpose.

While England celebrated a 2-0 series success, the beaten India team was in turmoil, divisions in their ranks betrayed by the astonishing decision of Navjot Sidhu, their putative Test opener, to leave the tour and retire immediately. Sidhu, offended by his omission at Old Trafford and convinced he has regularly been made a scapegoat for defeat, said: "My dignity would be compromised if I carried on with this team."

Sandeep Patil, the Indian manager, will today attempt to dissuade Sidhu from his highly unusual departure but it leaves the touring side exposed, both in diminished resources and disharmony, only ten days before the Test

series begins at Edgbaston. England, for once, are the side approaching a series in better shape.

Brown, the man of this carried-over match, is unlikely to feature in the Test side but has a guaranteed place when England return to one-day cricket in August. He has made his reputation as a cavalier, but yesterday, responding to the requirements of his side, he initially played the straight man. Only later did he allow himself to display the expansive, exotic side of his repertoire.

Warwickshire hold out ... 28
Ayles thwarts Durham ... 28

Forget the curiously dated sideburns: Brown is a thoroughly modern cricketer, down to his purple pad-straps. He plays the game in a determinedly personal way, one that may never pass muster within the technical rigours of Test cricket, but he is immensely watchable and the England selectors deserve applause not only for including him but for giving him his head throughout this weather-blighted series.

Brown has experienced the full spectrum of emotions in the three games, making a

plucky 37 in difficult conditions at the Oval and being out second ball for nought at Headingley. On Sunday evening, with one run to his name when the weather forced an adjournment, he made a promise to his team-mate, Chris Lewis. "I told him I would make a hundred," he said.

Brown's bravado is open and unapologetic. "The funny thing was I felt really good at Headingley," he said. "I know I only lasted two balls and got a duck but I did feel good. At the Oval, I'd been caught in limbo, trying to be the pinch-hitter they wanted in conditions that didn't suit it. So I came to this innings and knew I had to produce."

He did so, despite playing with a broken bat handle. "It happened some while ago and I don't want to give it up, because I have scored four centuries with it," he said.

When quizzed about his unusual style, he was equally honest. "I care about scoring runs and I care about how I feel but I don't really care how I look. I know there are prettier players."

Brown does not expect to be given a similar role in the Test side — "I don't see myself as a Test opener" — but his captain, Michael Atherton, praised his contribution yesterday. "It was a very mature innings for someone playing only his third international game. He played some big shots but he also batted very sensibly."

Good sense was essential early on, as Srivastava and Prasad once more delivered searching spells with the new ball. Neil Smith miscued a slower ball from Prasad and, after 20 overs, England were only 74 for two, but the vigilance of Brown was repaid as watery sunshine improved the climate for batting and as India, not for the first time, displayed the shallowness of their attack.

The two spinners conceded runs at more than five an over and Azharuddin split the fifth



Brown advances to drive Raju straight for six during yesterday's powerful match-winning innings

quota unsuccessfully between three men. He had to make sparing use of his two effective bowlers and only when they were in action did England seem remotely at risk.

Hick added 85 in 15 overs with Brown, who was then joined by Thorpe in a stand of 69 in 13. By then, Brown had reached a century from 122

balls, which was acclaimed joyously by the 6,000 who had returned for the second day and by two of the youngest pitch invaders I have ever seen.

Brown, having driven Raju for two straight sixes, fell to Srivastava with 20 required and the formalities were conducted by his Surrey colleagues,

Stewart and Lewis. Surrey monopolised the man-of-the-match awards, England dominated this series and India, for now, look a woebegone side. "We didn't play very well," said a downcast Azharuddin. And now they must play on without the man who is intent on taking his bat home in a huff.

Chairman to face board over book

By Alan Lee

ENGLAND'S cricketers must begin the Test match summer with their chairman of selectors on a disreputable charge. Raymond Illingworth was informed yesterday that he will face a full hearing of the Test and County Cricket Board disciplinary committee over the extracts from his forthcoming book that were serialised in the *Daily Express* last week.

The potential ramifications of this announcement will cast an unhelpful shadow over England's preparations for the first Test against India, which starts next Thursday, for there is unarguably a possibility that this will be the final game with Illingworth in charge.

A decision to summon Illingworth was taken by the chairman of the discipline sub-committee, Gerard Elias, QC. Although the publicity attracted by the extracts has focused on Illingworth's disaffection with Devon Malcolm, the hearing is likely to be more concerned with his detailing of various confidential selection debates. It is this element which prompted Lancashire, the employers of the England captain, Michael Atherton, to protest to the TCCB last week.

The book itself is not scheduled to be published until June 13. It may be almost that long before the disciplinary hearing sits in judgment and their powers are wide-ranging. They could instruct that Illingworth should be dismissed as chairman, which is unlikely, or they could heavily fine him, which might have the same effect.

Although Illingworth maintained last night that he would be gathering a defence, his distracted mood over the past few days indicates a man feeling persecuted. It may now only take the imposition of a penalty aimed at his wallet for him to stand down.

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

INDIA: 236 for 4 (50 overs) (M Azharuddin 75, V Rasthore 54)

ENGLAND
M A Atherton bowled by Srivastava 0 (20min, 2 balls)
A D Brown c David B Srivastava 118 (180min, 137 balls, 2 sixes, 10 fours)
N M K Smith c and b Prasad 11 (38min, 27 balls, 1 four)
G A Hick c David B Prasad 32 (22min, 45 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)
G P Thorpe run out (Prasad) 29 (20min, 33 balls, 3 fours)
M P Maynard bowled by Kumble 14 (38min, 28 balls, 1 four)
J A J Stewart not out 13 (20min, 19 balls, 2 fours)
C C Lewis not out 4 (7min, 2 balls, 1 four)
Extras (6 10 w 8) 18
Total (50 overs, 207min) 239
D G Gough and P J Martin did not bat.
Score after 15 overs: 48-2

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Brown 1), 2-32 (Brown 19), 3-117 (Brown 53), 4-126 (Brown 105), 5-217 (Maynard 10), 6-226 (Stewart 4)
BOWLING: Srivastava 10-1-36-5 (3 fours, 2-0-11-1, 2-1-0-2, 2-0-12-0, 3-0-11-1); Prasad 10-1-26-2 (w 2; 2 fours, 5-0-12-1, 2-0-8-1, 2-1-3-0); Kumble 10-0-52-1 (1 six, 3 fours, 5-0-21-0, 4-0-27-0, 1-0-4-1); Dale 9-5-1-0-0 (w 5; 2 sixes, 2 fours, 5-1-33-0, 1-0-13-0, 0-5-0-4-0); Ganguly 2-0-14-0 (3 fours, one six); Tendulkar 2-0-22-0 (w 1; 3 fours, one six); Jadeja 5-0-30-0 (4 fours, 4-0-21-0, 1-0-0-0-0)
England won by four wickets.
Match awarded to A D Brown (Adjudicator: B J Nicholas).
Series awarded: C C Lewis (5 M Pail) and M A Atherton (10 Lloyd).
Umpires: D J Constant and A A Jones. Reserve umpire: A G T Whitehead. Referee: G W Smith (West Indies).
[C] Compiled by Bill Frindall

Last-gasp Claridge puts Leicester back in top flight

Crystal Palace 1
Leicester City 2
(aet: 1-1 at 90min)

By Russell Kempson

CRYSTAL PALACE'S late surge towards promotion was terminated 11 seconds from the end of extra time, by a goal from Steve Claridge, the Leicester City forward, in the Leicester City League First-Division play-off final at Wembley yesterday. That his shot was mis-hit only aggravated the devastation felt by the south London side.

Cruel is too kind an adjective adequately to convey the emotions inflicted on the Palace players. At least there was no individual anguish, just collective grief at not rebounding back to the FA Carling Premiership at the first attempt. That honour was grasped by Leicester, probably deservedly, after a final of mounting tension and, ultimately, a dramatic finale.

It was their second victory from four play-off finals in five years and, for Martin O'Neill, the manager, his fourth successive in four visits to the national stadium, with Weymouth Wanderers and now Leicester.

"I was dreaming it going to penalties," O'Neill said. "This has to be one of the best

moments of my life." For Dave Bassett, the Palace manager of only three months, it was tough to take. "I had a feeling, a horrible feeling, that fate would play its hand," he said.

Parker orchestrated much of Leicester's work, frequently first to the loose ball and able to calm the frenzy whenever needed. Houghton did the same for Palace, strolling regally and regularly servicing the diagonal runs of Freedman and Ndah.

For all Leicester's early spark, it was Palace who claimed the lead in the four-

teenth minute. Roberts, the central defender, gathered possession on the edge of the area and drove a low, bobbling shot past Poole.

Ndah's pace continued to trouble Leicester while Izzet, had he been able to cross the ball consistently or correctly, might have provided similar problems for Palace. The game simmered encouragingly.

In the second half, it reached the boil — a cup-bait for the connoisseur. Palace could have stretched their lead, when Poole first saved Ndah's drive then, in almost his next

breath, athletically stopped Freedman's volley.

It was a temporary blip, with Leicester gradually forcing Palace back. Taylor kept cutting in from the right, to no avail; Heskey, Walsh and Parker tried efforts on goal — again, to no avail.

In the 76th minute, they were rewarded. Walsh threaded a pass through to Izzet, whose run was clumsily ended by Edworthy. Although Martyn got a hand to Parker's penalty, it carried enough momentum to cross the line.

Had Veart not nodded Walsh's towering header off the line, in the 87th minute, the sight of labouring, faltering bodies, in extra time, would not have been witnessed. An air of inevitability, of a shoot-out, inexorably pervaded the proceedings, with O'Neill bringing on Kalac, the 6ft 7in goalkeeper, in preparation.

He was not needed. Before he even touched the ball, Claridge latched on to Watts's nod-down and drove past Martyn. "I think it hit my shin," Claridge who cares? The Premiership awaits.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): N Martyn — D Tuttle (sub: S Rodgers, 102min); A Roberts, R Quinn — M Esmorley, D Hodgkin (sub: C Veart, 71); R Houghton, D Parker, K Brown — D Freedman (sub: B Dyer, 80), G Nash, LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K Poole (sub: Z Kaine, 129) — S Gossop, J Watts, G Walsh (sub: C Hill, 116), M Whitlow — M Izzet, S Parker, N Larnock, S Taylor (sub: M Roberts, 101), E Heskey — G Claridge.
Referee: D Allison.

Old master Beardsley forced out by his young apprentice

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN HONG KONG

NICK BARMBY refused to ring his wife to tell her the news. So his room-mate, Peter Beardsley, said he would do it for him. The offer says something about Beardsley, given that he must have realised his ten-year international career was over after he was left out of the England squad for the European championship.

Beardsley's omission is being read almost as a guarantee that Barmby will miss among the 22-strong squad due to be announced this morning. "He was embarrassed to tell her with me there because it meant he had a great chance of being in with me out," Beardsley said. "Terry Venables, the England coach, just told me straight, which is the way he has been all along." If Beardsley could believe it, Barmby could not. He thought it was a joke.

"In a funny sort of way, he was upset for me," Beardsley said. "But this has happened to better players than me. I've won 10 extra caps I wouldn't have won under Graham Taylor and if you'd said to me you'd get those caps but miss the European championship I'd have taken it. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see Nick score the winner at Wembley in the final on June 30th."

This is typical, genuine. Beardsley. His character is streaked with the same precision and generosity as his football. He can recall the date of the first of his 59 England caps (against Egypt, January 29, 1986) and of his first game as captain (against Israel, February 28, 1988). No clinical recitation of statistics, however, can adequately express his value to the team. During the World Cup in Italy in 1990, Beardsley and Lineker formed a partnership of goalscorer and provider which touched symbiotic perfection in the semi-final against Germany.



Beardsley: generous

I'm not just saying that today. I believe that and I've said it all along. The omission, which surprised those who knew how highly the England coach valued Beardsley's influence on the young players, has compounded the personal anguish of Newcastle United's failure to win the FA Carling Premiership. Spells in the lower divisions, rejection by Manchester United and a brief exile with Vancouver Whitecaps, however, have given him resilience to spare when it comes to coping with misfortunes on a higher plain.

He did not make his international debut until he was 25 and so has earned the right to believe that all is not completely lost. "A new England manager is coming in, with new ideas and a fresh start. So I think it's unlikely," he said. "But you never know. I've bounced back before."

Beardsley will keep an eye on the European championship ... on England games anyway. "The team are ideally situated," he said. "I'll be very surprised if they don't reach the semi-final at least."

Rob Hughes, page 22
McLaren out, page 22
Play Euro ITF, pages 26, 27

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Italian posts four rounds under 70 to capture his first PGA title

Resolute Rocca resists Faldo charge

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER you saw it on television or as one of the several thousand spectators crowded around the 18th green at Wentworth's West course, Costantino Rocca's reaction to winning the Volvo PGA Championship yesterday told you a lot about him and the importance of Europe's first £1 million event.

When his putt dropped for a birdie four on the 18th, which gave him victory by two strokes, Rocca went into an ecstatic dance that almost matched his demonstration of emotion after he had holed that enormous putt on the 72nd hole of last year's Open. It made Severiano Ballesteros's famous routine when he won the 1984 Open seem inanimate by comparison.

There was a genuine pleasure in being able to applaud Rocca, the most popular of men, as he vigorously shook his arms over his head and clenched his teeth in a smile so wide it seemed his face might break in two.

He was the only man in the field to complete four rounds below 70 and after his deeds in the past three years, some of which have been distressing and some heroic, he has become a firm favourite. It is not often that an Italian is cheered to the skies in the quintessentially British atmosphere of Wentworth but that was what happened soon after five o'clock yesterday. The outpouring of warmth even drowned the chink of teacups from the nearby clubhouse.

Rocca, 14 under par, won by two strokes from Nick Faldo, who mounted a courageous charge in the fourth round. Faldo went round in 68, the lowest of any of the leaders, while Paul Lawrie sank an important eight-foot putt on the 72nd green for a 70 and a share of second place.

Faldo was disappointed at failing to birdie either of the last two holes but Lawrie was delighted. "I'm really pleased with my week," the Scot said in his gravelly voice. "I played lovely, I mean, second in the PGA. It's just great."

There is a saying at Augusta that the Masters does not begin until the last nine holes on Sunday afternoon and it was over the closing holes that this championship was set-



Rocca, although under pressure throughout the final 18 holes, hit his drives with unrestrained power. Photograph: Ian Stewart

ted, too. Mark McNulty, who had been the joint leader with Rocca overnight, dropped out of contention with three successive bogeys, starting on the 13th, as Faldo was clawing his way towards Rocca. When Rocca drove into the woods on the 15th and took a five, he and Faldo were level.

There have been doubts about Rocca's resolution under pressure and he was certainly nervous as he sensed that he held the outcome of the tournament in his own hands. "My blood pressure was over 200" he admitted. "When I was playing the last two holes it was over 300."

Whereas he might have crumbled in the past, he did not do so now. Once he knew that Faldo had failed to birdie the 17th and had hit a six-iron

into a greenside bunker and taken three more to get down on the 18th, Rocca gritted his teeth.

He played both holes like the champion he was about to become. From 250 yards out on the 17th, he elected to take a three-iron, which left him 85 yards short, from where he

played a wedge shot which ended three feet from the hole.

Then, although he came up well short of the last green with his eight-iron second, he chipped to nine feet or so to set up his second birdie in as many holes and his fourth in all.

Up to then it had been

another damp, dull day. The ducks that waddled across the 16th fairway when Ian Woosnam and Paul McGinley were playing that hole must have felt at home. If it wasn't raining then it was about to or had just stopped. Underfoot conditions were squelchy and treacherous.

The most severe rain squall hit just after noon when Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, was announcing that BBC TV had signed a new four-year contract to televise the PGA and World Match Play Championships, the British Open and the Loch Lomond World Invitational.

As Schofield's words were drowned by the persistent drumming on the tent roof,

Jonathan Martin, BBC TV Head of Sport and Events, quipped: "Sky is crying." It was a funny remark at the time but, with hindsight, it seemed to point up the dominance of Sky as far as golf on television is concerned.

This did not particularly worry Martin. "There is only so much space for golf," he said, adding that there was such a thing as over-exposure. So ended the European Tour's flagship event, one that was only slightly diminished by the bad weather conditions. "We knew that these last two weeks were going to be windy and wet," Faldo said. "This is a good event and it had a good atmosphere." Once again, the PGA at Wentworth had produced a worthy champion.

FINAL SCORES FROM WENTWORTH

GB and Ireland unless stated:
274: C Rocca (R) 68, 67, 68, 67; N Faldo (S) 69, 72, 68, 71; P Lawrie (S) 70, 69, 70, 68; J Parnell (S) 70, 70, 69, 71; S Sandelin (S) 70, 69, 72, 67; M McQuerry (Z) 68, 69, 73, 68; P Spalding (S) 74, 67, 72, 69; C Montgomerie (S) 68, 69, 72, 69; G Orr (T) 67, 72, 69, 68; E Romero (A) 71, 68, 68, 72; L Westwood (S) 70, 69, 73, 68; J Woodworth (S) 70, 68, 70, 69; S Arnes (T) 73, 69, 74, 68; M Gronberg (S) 71, 71, 72, 68; P Haining (T) 71, 72, 68; A Collett (T) 72, 71, 68; T Johnstone (Z) 71, 72, 71.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup Playoffs: First Eastern Conference Round 1: Pittsburgh 2 (best-of-seven series 2-2).

ICE HOCKEY

INDIANAPOLIS: Indianapolis 500: 1. B Lazier (US, Penske) 200 laps; 2. D Jones (US, Lasker); 3. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 4. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 5. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 6. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 7. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 8. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 9. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 10. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 11. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 12. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 13. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 14. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 15. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 16. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 17. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 18. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 19. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 20. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 21. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 22. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 23. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 24. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 25. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 26. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 27. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 28. J. R. Kensinger (US, Lasker); 29. J. R. 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GOALKEEPERS

Code	Player (Country/Club)	Age	Caps
10101	Borislav Mikhailov (Bulgaria, Reading)	23	92
10102	Dimitar Popov (Bulgaria, CSKA)	23	13
10103	Zdravko Zdravkov (Bulgaria, Slavia Sofia)	25	1
10201	Toni Grahovac (Croatia, Hajduk Split)	25	7
10202	Drazen Ladic (Croatia, Croatia Zagreb)	33	22
10203	Marijan Mamic (Croatia, Varteks Varazdin)	30	3
10301	Petr Kouba (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	27	28
10302	Ludek Mikosko (Cz Rep, West Ham United)	28	3
10303	Pavel Smisek (Cz Rep, Newcastle United)	28	8
10401	Lars Hoegh (Denmark, Odense)	37	8
10402	Mogens Krogh (Denmark, Brøndby)	32	84
10403	Peter Schmeichel (Denmark, Manchester United)	29	7
10501	Tim Flowers (England, Blackburn Rovers)	29	23
10502	David Seaman (England, Arsenal)	24	0
10503	Ian Walker (England, Tottenham Hotspur)	24	0
10601	Fabien Barthez (France, Monaco)	24	2
10602	Sernand Lema (France, Paris Saint-Germain)	26	26
10603	Bruno Martini (France, Montpellier)	34	30
10701	Olivier Kahn (Germany, Bayern Munich)	26	3
10702	Stefan Klos (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	24	0
10703	Andreas Köpcke (Germany, Eintracht Frankfurt)	34	32
10801	Ed de Gooy (Holland, Feyenoord)	29	27
10802	Edwin van der Sar (Holland, Ajax)	25	6
10803	Ruud Hesp (Holland, Roda JC)	26	0
10901	Luca Bucci (Italy, Parma)	27	3
10902	Angelo Peruzzi (Italy, Juventus)	26	5
10903	Francesco Toldo (Italy, Fiorentina)	27	2
11001	Vitor Baia (Portugal, Porto)	26	40
11002	Alfredo Castro (Portugal, Scavista)	26	1
11003	Rui Costa (Portugal, Braga)	26	1
11101	Florin Alexandru Tene (Romania, Rapid Bucharest)	28	4
11102	Florin Prunea (Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	28	30
11103	Bogdan Stilea (Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	29	32
11201	Stanislav Cherchessov (Russia, FC Tyrol)	32	2
11202	Dmitri Khariine (Russia, Chelsea)	25	35
11203	Sergei Ovchinnikov (Russia, Lokomotiv Moscow)	27	2
11301	Andy Goram (Scotland, Rangers)	32	35
11302	Jim Leighton (Scotland, Hibernian)	32	1
11303	Nicky Walker (Scotland, Partick Thistle)	32	1
11401	Andoni Zubizarreta (Spain, Valencia)	34	106
11402	Santiago Cañizares (Spain, Real Madrid)	27	8
11403	José Molina (Spain, Atlético Madrid)	25	1
11501	Stephane Lehmann (Switzerland, Sion)	32	8
11502	Marco Pascolo (Switzerland, Servette)	29	35
11503	Pascal Zuberbuehler (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	29	3
11601	Engin Isikoglu (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	26	28
11602	Rustu Recber (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	23	14

FULL BACKS

Code	Player (Country/Club)	Age	Caps
20131	Ilian Kiryakov (Bulgaria, Anorthosis)	28	54
20132	Radoslav Kishinev (Bulgaria, Neftochimik Bourgas)	21	24
20133	Emil Krashev (Bulgaria, Olympos)	28	24
20134	Zarko Tsvetanov (Bulgaria, Vahdol Maribor)	26	33
20201	Elvis Bjegovic (Croatia, Bayern Munich)	26	7
20202	Robert Jami (Croatia, Real Betis)	27	18
20203	Nikola Jurcovic (Croatia, Freiburg)	28	14
20301	Radoslav Latul (Cz Rep, Schkele 04)	26	25
20302	Jiri Lach (Cz Rep, Slavia Prague)	24	21
20303	Tomaz Replac (Cz Rep, Slavia Prague)	22	15
20304	Jan Suchoparek (Cz Rep, Slavia Prague)	27	29
20401	Thomas Helveg (Denmark, Udinese)	24	12
20402	Jacob Laurson (Denmark, Skovde - RS)	24	11
20403	Torbjorn Arfvid (Denmark, Aalborg)	24	11
20404	Jens Risager (Denmark, Brøndby)	25	11
20501	Gary Neville (England, Manchester United - RS)	21	8
20502	Philipp Neville (England, Manchester United)	19	0
20503	Stuart Pearce (England, Nottingham Forest)	24	64
20601	Joselyn Angiolini (France, Toulon)	30	32
20602	Eric Di Meo (France, Monaco)	32	20
20603	Benoite Lizarazu (France, Bordeaux)	26	17
20604	Lilian Thuram (France, Monaco)	24	8
20701	Stefan Reuter (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	29	51
20702	Rene Schneider (Germany, Rostock)	23	1
20801	Frank de Boer (Holland, Ajax)	25	39
20802	Winston Bogarde (Holland, Ajax)	25	2
20803	Michael Reiziger (Holland, Ajax)	23	6
20901	Luigi Apolloni (Italy, Parma)	29	10
20902	Amedeo Carboni (Italy, Roma)	31	67
20903	Paolo Misasi (Italy, AC Milan)	32	7
20904	Roberto Mussi (Italy, Parma)	32	11
21001	Paulinho Santos (Portugal, Porto)	26	12
21002	Carlos Secunheiro (Portugal, Porto)	26	3
21003	José Tavares (Portugal, Boavista)	30	3
21004	Dimas Teófilo (Portugal, Benfica)	27	5
21101	Comeliu Papura (Romania, Universitatea Craiova)	23	9
21102	Dan Petrescu (Romania, Chelsea)	29	50
21103	Tibor Selymes (Romania, Cercle Brugge)	26	27
21201	Yuri Kovtun (Russia, Dynamo Moscow)	26	13
21202	Ramiz Mamedov (Russia, Spartak Moscow)	23	7
21301	Tommy Boyd (Scotland, Celtic)	30	33
21302	Craig Burley (Scotland, Chelsea)	24	7
21303	Stewart McKinnie (Scotland, Aberdeen)	23	37
21304	Brian O'Neill (Scotland, Celtic)	23	3
21401	Sergi Barjuan (Spain, Barcelona)	24	18
21402	Alberto Belsue (Spain, Real Zaragoza)	23	12
21403	Jorge Ciero (Spain, Valencia)	23	9
21501	Marc Hottiger (Switzerland, Everton)	28	59
21502	Yvan Quenlin (Switzerland, Sion)	26	25
21601	Recep Cetin (Turkey, Besiktas)	30	46

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Player (Country/Club)	Age	Caps
30138	Gosho Gulichev (Bulgaria, Denizli Spor)	27	3
30139	Petar Hutechov (Bulgaria, Hamburg)	30	30
30140	Trifon Ivanov (Bulgaria, Rapid Vienna)	30	59
30201	Steven Bilic (Croatia, West Ham United)	27	19
30202	Nikola Jerkan (Croatia, Real Oviedo)	26	18
30203	Dubravko Perisic (Croatia, Heracles)	26	18
30204	Zvonimir Soldo (Croatia, Croatia Zagreb)	28	9
30205	Igor Stimac (Croatia, Derby County)	26	15
30301	Michal Horak (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	26	4
30302	Miroslav Kadlec (Cz Rep, Kaiserslautern)	31	48
30303	Lubos Kubic (Cz Rep, Petra Dvornice)	31	46
30401	Jes Hoegh (Denmark, Fenerbahce)	29	21
30402	Lars Olsen (Denmark, Brøndby)	26	37
30403	Mico Ripper (Denmark, West Ham United)	27	37
30501	Tony Adams (England, Arsenal)	30	36
30502	Gary Pollard (England, Manchester United)	30	20
30503	Gareth Southgate (England, Aston Villa)	26	2
30601	Laurent Blanc (France, Auxerre)	27	40
30602	Marcel Desailly (France, AC Milan)	27	20
30603	Frank LeBoeuf (France, Strasbourg)	28	7
30604	Alain Roche (France, Paris Saint-Germain)	28	22
30701	Markus Babbel (Germany, Bayern Munich)	23	13
30702	Thomas Helmer (Germany, Bayern Munich)	31	49
30703	Jürgen Kohler (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	30	81
30704	Mathias Sammer (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	28	39
30801	Danny Blind (Holland, Ajax)	34	37
30802	John de Kock (Holland, Roda JC)	31	6
30803	John Veldman (Holland, Sparta Rotterdam)	28	1
30901	Alessandro Costacurta (Italy, AC Milan)	30	35
30902	Ciro Ferrara (Italy, Juventus)	29	32
30903	Moreno Torricelli (Italy, Juventus)	26	1
31001	Fernando Couto (Portugal, Parma)	28	31
31002	Helder Cristovao (Portugal, Benfica)	25	18
31003	Paulo Madeira (Portugal, Benfica)	25	12
31101	Anton Dobos (Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	31	6
31102	Gheorghe Mihail (Romania, Gungamp)	31	30
31103	Gheorghe Popescu (Romania, Barcelona)	29	61
31104	Daniel Prodan (Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	27	37
31201	Yevgeny Bushmanov (Russia, CSKA Moscow)	24	26
31202	Yuri Yordanov (Bulgaria, Sporting Lisbon)	27	2
31203	Omar Tashraf (Russia, Alania Vladikavkaz)	26	20
31301	Colin Calderwood (Scotland, Tottenham Hotspur)	31	9
31302	Colin Hendry (Scotland, Blackburn Rovers)	30	16
31303	Alan McLean (Scotland, Rangers)	26	24
31401	Rafael Alkorta (Spain, Real Madrid)	27	35
31402	Abelardo Fernandez (Spain, Barcelona)	28	25
31403	Fernando Hierro (Spain, Real Madrid)	28	41
31404	Miquel Angel Nadal (Spain, Barcelona)	29	30
31501	Alain Geiger (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	35	110
31502	Stephane Henchoz (Switzerland, Hamburg)	21	15
31503	Dominique Herr (Switzerland, Sion)	30	51
31504	Roman Vega (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	25	7
31601	Alpay Ozal (Turkey, Besiktas)	23	18
31602	Bulent Korkmaz (Turkey, Galatasaray)	27	45
31603	Oguz Temizkanoglu (Turkey, Trabzonspor)	24	35
31604	Canan Ozkoylu (Turkey, Trabzonspor - RS)	24	11

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Player (Country/Club)	Age	Caps
40141	Krasimir Balakov (Bulgaria, VfB Stuttgart)	30	51
40142	Daniel Borimirov (Bulgaria, Munch 1860)	26	21
40143	Borcho Guechev (Bulgaria, Luton Town)	31	10
40144	Yordan Lechkov (Bulgaria, Hamburg)	28	35

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The winner of the draw will be notified by Friday June 14.

See details of how to enter Euro ITF on the page opposite.



Holland will be relying on the finishing power of Dennis Bergkamp

Code	Player (Country/Club)	Age	Caps
40145	Zheko Yankov (Bulgaria, Bayer Uerdingen)	29	46
40146	Argyio Yordanov (Bulgaria, Sporting Lisbon)	27	22
40147	Georgi Donkov (Bulgaria, CSKA Sofia)	26	0
40201	Aljoša Asanovic (Croatia, Hajduk Split)	30	17
40202	Zvonimir Boban (Croatia, AC Milan)	32	15
40203	Mladen Mladenovic (Croatia, Salzburg)	28	15
40204	Nenad Pralija (Croatia, Hajduk Split)	28	8
40205	Robert Prosinecki (Croatia, Barcelona)	25	12
40206	Mario Stanic (Croatia, FC Bruges - RS)	23	6
40301	Patrik Berger (Cz Rep, Borussia Dortmund - RS)	22	14
40302	Michal Bilek (Cz Rep, Victoria Zizkov)	31	34
40303	Martin Frydek (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	27	23
40304	Pavel Hapal (Cz Rep, Tenafite)	27	31
40305	Pavel Nedved (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	23	7
40306	Jiri Nemec (Cz Rep, Schkele 04)	29	32
40307	Vladav Nemec (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	23	12
40308	Karel Poborsky (Cz Rep, Sparta Prague)	23	12
40401	Michael Laudrup (Denmark, Real Madrid)	31	87
40402	Allan Nielsen (Denmark, Brøndby)	25	3
40403	Peter Nielsen (Denmark, Borussia Mönchengladbach)	27	3
40404	Brian Sten Nielsen (Denmark, Odense)	27	34
40405	Michael Schjoberg (Denmark, Odense)	28	12
40406	Claus Thomsen (Denmark, Ipswich Town)	25	5
40407	Kim Vilfort (Denmark, Brøndby)	33	74
40501	Darren Anderton (England, Tottenham Hotspur)	24	9
40502	Paul Gascoigne (England, Rangers)	28	37
40503	Paul Ince (England, Internazionale)	28	18
40504	David Platt (England, Newcastle United)	29	6
40505	Steve McManis (England, Liverpool)	29	9
40506	David Platt (England, Arsenal)	29	57
40507	Steve Stone (England, Nottingham Forest)	24	5
40508	Dennis Wise (England, Chelsea)	28	11

40601	Didier Deschamps (France, Juventus)	27	48
40602	Vincent Guerin (France, Paris Saint-Germain)	26	14
40603	Christen Karembeu (France, Sampdoria)	21	3
40604	Sabri Lamouchi (France, Arsenal)	26	11
40605	Carand Martins (France, Arsenal)	23	10
40606	Zinedine Zidane (France, Bordeaux - RS)	27	16
40701	Mario Basler (Germany, Werder Bremen)	26	1
40702	Marco Bode (Germany, Werder Bremen)	31	14
40703	Dieter Elts (Germany, Werder Bremen)	26	13
40704	Stefan Freund (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	29	72
40705	Thomas Hässler (Germany, Karlsruhe)	26	55
40706	Andi Möller (Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	26	6
40707	Melner Scholl (Germany, Bayern Munich - RS)	28	25
40708	Thomas Stunz (Germany, Bayern Munich)	24	10
40709	Christian Ziege (Germany, Bayern Munich)	23	5
40801	Edgar Davids (Holland, Ajax - RS)	26	23
40802	Ronald de Boer (Holland, Ajax)	21	9
40803	Claudio Seedorf (Holland, Sampdoria)	29	52
40804	Aron Winter (Holland, Lazio)	25	1
40805	Phil Couh (Holland, PSV Eindhoven)	24	34
40901	Demetrio Albertini (Italy, AC Milan)	24	28
40902	Dino Baggio (Italy, Parma)	21	8
40903	Alessandro Del Piero (Italy, Juventus)	29	1
40904	Angelo Di Livio (Italy, Juventus)	26	3
40905	Roberto Di Matteo (Italy, Lazio)	26	59
40906	Roberto Di Matteo (Italy, AC Milan)	27	4
40907	Diego Fuser (Italy, Lazio)	24	0
40908	Fabio Rossini (Italy, Udinese)	24	21
41003	Rui Costa (Portugal, Fiorentina)	24	24
41004	Oscar Cruz (Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	23	39
41005	Luis Figo (Portugal, Barcelona)	26	43
41006	Vitor Pereira (Portugal, Guimaraes)	23	8
41007	Se Pinto (Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	25	24
41008	Paulo Sousa (Portugal, Juventus)	23	2
41101	Julian Filipescu (Romania, Steaua Bucharest - RS)	28	46
41102	Ioan Angelo Lupescu (Romania, Bayer Leverkusen)	30	26
41103	Dorin Munteanu (Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	28	44
41104	Dorinel Munteanu (Romania, Cologne)	21	8
41105	Radu Niculescu (Romania, National Bucharest)	26	21
41106	Nica Sabau (Romania, Benfica)	28	47
41107	Ioan Sabau (Romania, Benfica)	28	47
41201	Andrei Kanchelskis (Russia, Everton)	27	40
41202	Valery Karpin (Russia, Real Sociedad)	27	27
41203	Alexander Mostovoi (Russia, Schalke 04)	27	30
41204	Viktor Onopko (Russia, Oviedo)	28	16
41205	Andrei Prityulyak (Russia, Spartak Moscow)	20	6
41206	Vladislav Radnikov (Russia, CSKA Moscow)	26	42
41207	Igor Shalimov (Russia, Ufa)	26	13
41208	Ilya Tsyymbalar (Russia, Spartak Moscow)	26	2
41301	John Collins (Scotland, Celtic)	28	31
41302	Scott Gemmill (Scotland, Nottingham Forest)	25	5
41303	Gary McAllister (Scotland, Leeds United)	31	32
41304	Stuart McCall (Scotland, Rangers)	27	17
41305	Billy McKinlay (Scotland, Blackburn Rovers)	27	28
41306	Pat Nevin (Scotland, Tranmere Rovers)	32	28
41401	José Luis Caminero (Spain, Atletico Madrid)	26	18
41402	Dorato Gama da Silva (Spain, Deportivo La Coruña)	33	22
41403	Julian Guerrero (Spain, Athletic Bilbao)	22	11
41404	Luis Enrique Martinez (Spain, Real Madrid)	26	16
41405	Guillermo Amor (Spain, Barcelona)	26	12
41406	José Emilio Amavisca (Spain, Real Madrid)	24	10
41501	Thomas Biebel (Switzerland, Vessel Kobe)	32	52
41502	Christophe Bornin (Switzerland, Sion)	31	41
41503	Sebastian Fournier (Switzerland, Sion)	24	24
41504	Marcel Koller (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	29	46
41505	Christophe Ohler (Switzerland, St. Gallen)	28	39
41506	Alain Suter (Switzerland, Basel)	26	39
41507	Alain Suter (Switzerland, Freiburg)	31	3
41508	Johan Vogel (Switzerland, Grasshopper - RS)	21	2
41509	Murat Yakin (Switzerland, Grasshopper)	22	2
41601	Oguz Cetin (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	33	57
41602	Abdullah Erkan (Turkey, Trabzonspor)	24	24
41603	Abdullah Erkan (Turkey, Trabzonspor)	24	17
41604	Tugay Keremoglu (Turkey, Galatasaray)	25	37
41605	Goldan Keskin (Turkey, Besiktas)	30	41
41606	Tayfun Karakit (Turkey, Fenerbahce)	29	2
41607	Basim Keskin (Turkey, Besiktas)	22	2
41608	Basim Keskin (Turkey, Besiktas)	22	13

Leaders fail to hammer home their advantage

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (11) drew with Leicestershire (11)

LEICESTERSHIRE deserved better than this. With 13 overs left Warwickshire were seeking a draw, the summit of their ambitions, and it seemed unattainable. They had two wickets in hand and were a mere 11 runs to the good. A defeat would have been their fourth in all competitions within a fortnight, unthinkable at the start of the season. Yet Leicestershire, the county championship leaders, squandered the opportunity, dropping a catch and failing to take a further wicket. The ninth-wicket pair, Piper and Small, had added 45 runs by the time Leicestershire gave up hope of victory with four overs remaining. Two years ago, under the captaincy of Nigel Briars, they finished runners-up, splendid achievement. To become champi-

changed his mind but failed to remove his bat from the line of the ball.

All this made for poor cricket. When Penney was taken at silly point off bat and bowled, Warwickshire had lost three wickets in five overs. The pitch was taking spin, but not to any marked degree. The faster bowlers, Mully and Mullally, sometimes strayed in direction. Staying at the wicket should not have been beyond the middle order.

Resolve came more naturally to Brown. Leicestershire could not rid themselves of him for two and three-quarter hours. There was nothing about his batting to catch the eye, only a single-mindedness that none of his colleagues could emulate. When he was eventually caught at gully off Mully, having struck eight fours in his half-century, Warwickshire were still one behind.

They did have four wickets left. Reeve was still there, fidgeting, putting, sweeping balls pitched a foot outside off stump and treating every bowler not so much on merit as on how the field was set. He stayed for 13 overs before he, like Moles, looked to cut a wide one to third man and was taken at the wicket.

Sixteen overs are bowled in the last hour of this season. In the first of these, Pierson had Welch caught at short leg off bat and pad, such turn as there was not sufficiently smothered. Then the off spinner had Giles, the new batsman, dropped by that same fielder, Maddy snatching at the ball in his exuberance. After that, Piper and Giles batted within their limitations and without undue concern.

Given better weather, Leicestershire would have triumphed. Nobody ever thinks a great deal of their side, or of their ground, or of the support they muster. Yet they remain at the head of the championship table, have spent £30,000 on a museum in their pavilion, and have chosen players from other counties with care. Pierson, who finished with five for 68, and was their leading wicket-taker last season, was once with Warwickshire.

When Simmons played for Leicestershire two years ago, he cajoled the younger players. His innings yesterday, in which he added 43 runs off 31 balls to his overnight century, was terrific. Reeve had as many as eight fielders on the boundary and yet the Trinidadian still managed to bisect them, or, in two instances, clear them.



Prasanna, right, keeps his eyes on the ball despite the competition offered by his short leg, Rathore, before completing the caught and bowled dismissal of Neil Smith, the England batsman, yesterday. Report, page 21

Aymes thwarts Durham's bold plan

By JACK BAILEY

PORTSMOUTH (final day of four): Hampshire (7 pts) drew with Durham (10)

FIRST thing yesterday, there were those who questioned Durham's tactics. What, turn down Hampshire's offer of honouring an immediate Durham declaration, 32 behind on the first innings, knowing that Hampshire would leave them no more than 250 runs from 60 overs? Durham would have none of it. They preferred to make certain of a first-innings lead bordering on 100 and back themselves to run through Hampshire in what time was left.

They left themselves only 45

overs to pull the rabbit out of the hat, but they came closer to achieving it than many thought possible. Hampshire's batsmen lent a helping hand and there were 19 overs left when Hampshire lost their fifth wicket with only 59 on the board.

The reliable Adrian Aymes and Giles White then played with great determination, and Durham's impossible dream remained just that, despite the belligerent bowling of Simon Brown, John Wood and Melvin Betts.

The solid batting of Blenkinsop and Collingwood helped to fulfil phase one of Durham's master plan. These two took their fifth-wicket partnership from 68 when the

day began to 156, before Collingwood's defences were pierced by Connor with the new ball.

Blenkinsop, playing in his first match of the season, went on to complete the second century of his career after 5½ hours at the crease and after three hours of the final day had vanished. Durham could have done with a faster partnership to give themselves more time at Hampshire, but the conditions were never conducive to quick scoring. Hampshire, feeling slighted by the rejection of their offer, were in no mood to give Durham anything.

Even so, such was Blenkinsop's painful progress through the 90s—he spent ten

overs over his last ten runs—that he was given the message by Boiling, the incoming batsman, that he would fall short if he did not reach his century by the end of the over. He needed only two of the remaining three balls to hit the four which brought him to three figures and Durham to the point of declaration.

Caught somewhat betwixt and between, with nothing but survival to play for and with both Stephenson and Lane, their opening batsmen, staring a pair in the face, Hampshire made a poor fist of things initially. Lane completed his dreaded second night when he played round a full toss.

Stephenson, seeking to regain his touch after an absence, could not wholly claim to have found it before he was snapped up in the gully. Morris dragged a wide ball on to his stumps, having scarcely moved his feet, and suddenly Hampshire were struggling.

When Whitaker was caught and bowled and James before, playing no discernible shot, Durham sensed the kill. Aymes and White played with great good sense, inching Hampshire to the high ground which saw them level with their opponents. With nearly three overs still remaining, Durham called off the hunt.

Dangerous Walsh sure to pose threat to Lancashire

By SIMON WILDE

LANCASHIRE will be strongly fancied to overwhelm Gloucestershire in their Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford today. The holders are unbeaten in 13 matches in the competition and, unlike their opponents, are formidable at all forms of the limited-overs game.

However, this encounter may not be as straightforward as widely expected for in their captain, Courtney Walsh, Gloucestershire possess a fast bowler capable of turning in the kind of inspired performance that can settle one of these contests swiftly.

Gloucestershire have also acquired the knack of upsetting predictions where Lancashire are concerned.

With two wins in four days at Cheltenham last summer, they seriously harmed their opponents' prospects in the championship and Sunday League; and they won the two previous championship meetings before that.

Robert Cunliffe, who played a match-winning innings in the championship at Cheltenham, has recovered from a knee injury and will play. In the group matches he scored 352 runs from four innings, including two unbeaten centuries.

It was Lancashire's brilliant win, chasing a total of 313 at Old Trafford, that sent Warwickshire's season into an unexpected nosedive a fortnight ago. That result began a sequence of one win in five matches for the cup favourites.

Warwickshire could restore their equilibrium by defeating Glamorgan in Cardiff, where they enjoyed successes in three competitions last year. But Munton remains on the sidelines, which will only complicate the task of containing Glamorgan's powerful batting line-up, although the Welsh county will miss Adrian Dale, who has damaged a sciatic nerve.

Northamptonshire, the only county unbeaten in limited-overs matches this season, are hosts to Kent in an intriguing fixture in which neither side should be short of runs.

With Matthew Fleming opening, Kent have looked among the most accomplished sides at taking advantage of the early fielding restrictions, as have Surrey, who meet Yorkshire at the Oval in what could be another high-scoring game.

With the weather forecast grim, these ties may well stretch into their reserve days. In extreme circumstances, matches as short as ten overs per side can suffice but if that is not possible a "bowling-out" at a set of stumps will be necessary.

Evergreen Garcia is selected for his third Olympics

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFTER the names of the 16 hockey players who will represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July were announced yesterday, one man had more reason to celebrate than the rest of his successful team-mates. This will be Russell Garcia's third appearance in the Games.

Garcia, who at 18 was a member of the 1988 gold medal-winning team in Seoul, is now, in terms of experience, the senior member of the party whose combined appearances for England and Great Britain are approaching the 200 mark. The squad contains five members of the 1992 team that finished sixth in Barcelona—Lucas, the goalkeeper, Jason Laslett, Robert Thompson, John Shaw and Garcia. The average age is approximately 27, with Daniel Hall the youngest at 21, and Shaw, the oldest at 34.

Laslett, who will lead the side as an inside forward, has been handicapped by injury since the side's return from Malaysia and took no part in the 2-1 defeat by Germany at Milton Keynes on Sunday. He is expected to be fit in about ten days time.

For Fordham, a half back, and Pearn, a rising young forward, many months of hard work have ended in disappointment. Hall was preferred to Pearn by the Great Britain team management on the grounds of having a stronger mental attitude. Fordham and Pearn will join Seaton, the Scotland goalkeeper, Hoskin, Lee and Sharpe to make up six reserves who have been asked to maintain their fitness.

SQUAD: 8 Mason (Reading), 0 Lucas (East Grinstead), 11 West (Reading), 11 Hall (Oldham), 11 Shaw (Southampton), 11 Pearn (Southampton), 11 Seaton (Scotland), 11 Hoskin (Scotland), 11 Thompson (Hampshire), 11 Garcia (Oldham), 11 Laslett (Hampshire), 11 Fordham (Hampshire), 11 Lee (Hampshire), 11 Sharpe (Hampshire), 11 Shaw (Hampshire), 11 Pearn (Hampshire), 11 Hoskin (Hampshire), 11 Lucas (Hampshire), 11 Mason (Hampshire).

□ Teddingham's hopes of lifting England back into the A Division of the European Club championship were unfilled when they failed to reach the final of the B Division in Prague. They finished third overall yesterday with a 5-4 victory over Pembroke Wanderers, of Ireland, after a 2-2 draw in the play-off series. Cannock, the new league champions, will play in the B Division next year.

Obree seals pursuit title in style

By PETER BRYAN

WHILE Graeme Obree successfully defended his national 4,000-metre pursuit title yesterday, riding his original and home-made bicycle, his new £125,000 high-tech Hotta machine was on its way to the Totnes, Devon, specialist builders for "minor adjustments," Chris Field, the designer said.

The machine will be returned to Obree for first trials on the outdoor Meadowbank track at Edinburgh a week today. The Scot will then use it in an extended training series on the Manchester velodrome—the venue yesterday—where he defends his world pursuit title in August.

In his semi-final, Shaun Wallace was the pace-setter in the first 1,000 metres as Obree got into his rhythm. Before the half-distance, however, Obree assumed the lead, easing off towards the end.

In the race for gold, Rob Hayles, winner of his semi-final against James Millar, was Obree's rival and a known fast starter. That proved the style of the first two kilometres of the race, with the champion trailing by as much as 2.3sec.

Then in the ninth of the 16 laps, Obree appeared to go into overdrive as he took the lead. His winning time of 4min 26.293sec was the fastest of the series.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

British Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Essex

DERBY (first day of four): Derbyshire (11) drew with Essex (11)

ESSEX: First Innings 363 for 7 dec (N Hussain 81, D J Robinson 74)

2nd Innings

G A Gooch b Malcolm 0

D D J Robinson not out 18

A P Grayson not out 24

Extras (b 1, w 1) 2

Total (1 wk) 44

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0

BOWLING: Malcolm 4-0-18-1; Aldred 5-1-17-0; Jones 6-2-6-0

Derbyshire: First Innings

K J Barnett c Rollins b Williams 39

A S Rollins c Williams b Such 27

C J Adams b Such 58

C J Adams b Such 43

J E Owen bow b Cowen 7

C M Wells bow b Such 5

J K Mitchell c Law b Williams 22

A J Harris not out 9

S J Bate c Rollins b Cowen 1

S E Malcolm not out 1

Extras (b 5, w 11, w 1, w 6) 25

Total (90.3 overs) 315

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-103, 3-154, 4-227, 5-243, 6-284, 7-285, 8-300, 9-322

BOWLING: Such 29-7-87-3; Cowen 28-3-105-2; Such 11-4-24-2; Williams 16-2-69-2; Grayson 6-2-14-0

Extras: J D Bond and K J Lyons

Gloucestershire v Worcestershire

ABERGAVENNY (final day of four): Gloucestershire (8) drew with Worcestershire (8)

GLoucestershire: First Innings 328 (R D B Croft 73 not out, G P Butler 73, O D Gibson 51; P J Newport 6 for 100)

2nd Innings

S P James at Rhodes b Ilingsworth 89

H Morris bow b Sherrin 0

S L Watson b Sherrin 0

G P Butler c Sherrin b Lampitt 42

P A Conner c Rhodes b Lampitt 5

D O Gibson not out 34

D B Croft not out 5

Extras (b 2, w 4) 4

Total (5 wks dec) 194

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-33, 3-106, 4-117, 5-161

BOWLING: Newport 9-4-41-0; Sherrin 12-2-37-2; Ilingsworth 8-0-34-1; Lampitt 9-1-43-2; Rhodes 2-0-10-0

Worcestershire: First Innings

200 for 6 dec (W P C Weston 121 not out, T S Curtis 62 not out)

2nd Innings

S P James at Reading b Ilingsworth 89

H Morris bow b Sherrin 0

S L Watson b Sherrin 0

G P Butler c Sherrin b Lampitt 42

P A Conner c Rhodes b Lampitt 5

D O Gibson not out 34

D B Croft not out 5

Extras (b 2, w 4) 4

Total (5 wks dec) 194

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-33, 3-106, 4-117, 5-161

BOWLING: Newport 9-4-41-0; Sherrin 12-2-37-2; Ilingsworth 8-0-34-1; Lampitt 9-1-43-2; Rhodes 2-0-10-0

Gloucestershire v Surrey

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (final day of four): Gloucestershire (8) drew with Surrey (8)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 372 (T H C Hancock 116, N J Tinnion 67, A J Weight 51; R B P Jones 5 for 97)

2nd Innings

A J Tinnion c Jones b Benjamin 32

N J Tinnion c Jones b Benjamin 32

M A Lynch not out 46

G P Hancock not out 49

D O Gibson not out 34

Extras (b 2, w 4) 4

Total (2 wks dec) 163

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-90, 2-115

BOWLING: M P Bennett 6-0-31-0; Julian 51-2-20; Pearson 11-0-36-0; Johnson 10-2-10; Holford 2-0-14-0

Surrey: First Innings

228 for 6 dec (D M Ward 94 not out)

2nd Innings

D B Bennett bow b Smith 0

M A Bennett bow b Smith 0

J D Radcliffe c Ball b Alleyne 58

A J Holford bow b Smith 56

D B Bennett bow b Smith 56

M A Bennett bow b Smith 56

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LAW

FOOLPROOF FORENSIC? 31
INVESTIGATORS 32

In his last week as secretary-general of the Law Society, John Hayes talks to Frances Gibb

Those who adapt will flourish

To many who swept Martin Mears to victory last summer, John Hayes is the villain of the piece. The secretary-general of the Law Society since 1987, he is the architect of the present organisation, with its 700 staff and income nearing £50 million. It has — some say — become a swollen, complacent bureaucracy, divorced from the struggles of solicitors in the high street. This, they argue, is what swept Mr Mears to power last summer on an anti-establishment ticket.

Mr Hayes accepts some blame must lie with him: "It is right to be critical of the Law Society's performance over the years — to stand back and say that the society has become detached from its members. That is a matter of regret and fault — which includes me."

But much of the surge of discontent now targeted at the Law Society has its roots in the recession, he says. "Solicitors have lost many of the props which up to the early 1980s gave them a comfortable living." He cites the collapse of the housing market — which hit conveyancing (half of solicitors' earnings in 1966, now 12 per cent); the use of lower-cost staff (middle-management clerks), who by the 1980s were replaced by graduates; the removal by the Inland Revenue of the right to keep interest on clients' money; and tighter controls on legal aid.

"All this left a lot of desperate solicitors and a tiny proportion turned to dishonesty. But others had bills to meet and they turned to their professional body and asked what could be done to help them."

The answer was not always to their liking. The strategy of the Law Society in the past decade has been to promote a change of culture which, as Mr Hayes puts it, no longer protects "particular monopolies or privileges but emphasises client care, promotes excellence, and does not regard... sound business practice as somehow alien to the values of a profession."

Small firms with four partners or less, are the majority in England and Wales, but only 40 per cent of all solicitors. Fighting to survive, they found themselves with demands for new complaints procedures, codes of practice and anti-

discrimination measures. "Our message was that the world is changing, and those who adapt will flourish. But it was not a popular message," Mr Hayes says. "If we had spent more years helping solicitors to market themselves, to give clients fee information, or done more to help them to handle complaints in-house — they might have adjusted more easily. But that did not seem essential — the good firms were doing it naturally."

Yet another sore point was the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, expanding to deal with the growing number of complaints, but failing to understand solicitors' problems in a recession. Many agree that the Law Society needed a shake-up. Not just the high street firms but City firms, too, found it divorced from their interests: they contribute most of its income, although most of its activities stem from the work of smaller firms, and the society itself is controlled or led by those from medium regional firms. But its primary fault, it can be argued, was failure to communicate with its members, rather than misplaced policies.

One colleague said: "John Hayes came to the Law Society when its standing was low and it was in disarray. He is a first-class administrator who has built up a highly professional machine, with top quality, talented staff — which he realised were its main asset."

The top jobs which departing staff have recently secured, vindicate their abilities. Financially, council members and colleagues testify to the way Mr Hayes built up the society's bank balance, securing properties both in London and outside at low market prices; developing its research and policy planning, its press and public relations machine and its strategies on training and education of the profession.

Walter Merricks, a senior society official, says: "The idea that the profession can't afford a well-run, well-staffed professional body is absurd." Henry Hodge, a council member for 14 years, adds: "John put the Law Society on course and upgraded its public role, so that it became a well-respected commenting body. When reductions in spending were needed, three years ago, he



John Hayes says the danger of the turmoil is "not revolution but a Flat Earth Law Society"

achieved them overnight. And when people say it is too expensive — they forget that much of the profession's income is not paid for by solicitors at all, but by income-generating activities."

What is happening, many say, is undermining Mr Hayes' achievements. The new leadership represents more than a shift to protectionism. "The issue is fitness to govern," Mr Hayes says. "It is right to stand back and say, the Law Society has become detached from its members. But what we have now is leaders who believe the causes for which they were elected merit a suspension of the normal democratic conventions under which the society was governed."

The new ethos, he says, is not based on consultation, decision by committee or debate, but on driving forward particular aims and if needs be, suppressing views or evidence to the contrary. "They

(Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer) say they were elected to do a job and that the Law Society should use all levers of power possible to achieve it — and that those levers should be under their control." It is a style, he says, that can bring its own backlash. "You have the unleashing of other forces — critics who start to realise that these new aims can't be achieved, either because they are illegal or an incoming government would oppose them or there's not the evidence to justify them."

The danger of the present turmoil is "not revolution but a Flat Earth Law Society. High street firms are at risk if they try to compete on price rather than quality; do not invest in new technology, do not take client care seriously and do not embrace modern management standards."

Worse, though, is the risk to the profession's powers of self-regulation. Decisions consistently taken for the profession's self-interest could lose it the right to regulate itself. Any

against Michael Howard's sentencing plans paid him tribute before he bows out after four years as Lord Chief Justice because of ill health. Two of the most fulsome came from the Opposition spokesmen (Lord Mackay of Clashfern said some kind words when Lord Taylor's retirement was first announced).

For the Liberal Democrats, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a QC, said: "You will be recognised by future generations as the greatest Lord Chief Justice of this century." Lord Taylor had sometimes needed to have the "courage of a lion in winter" for taking a public stand against the Home Secretary, Mr Howard, he said, would be remembered "as lacking the very qualities which we attribute to the present Lord Chief Justice."

For Labour, Lord Williams of Mostyn quoted a sentence he said could have been "made and minted for this Lord Chief Justice: 'I will not cut my conscience according to this year's fashion.'"

SCRIVENOR

Bad nightmares and sad reality

As an Inner London youth court magistrate, I am developing a severe case of paranoia. I have this recurring nightmare that someone, somewhere is trying to get rid of the Youth Court. In my waking moments I know this is impossible because the court exists by statute. Nonetheless I feel that the planned reorganisation is likely to lead to irrevocable changes in its identity.

The nightmare began with the Police and Magistrates' Courts Act of 1994. There were provisions in the Bill for performance-related pay and fixed-term contracts for clerks that fortunately were abandoned. Sadly, we have been landed with a performance-related cash system for the courts themselves. Three days of television licence cases, for example, receive more points than a serious three-day case. This crazy situation, brought on by a market ethos, is now being looked into, but the Act also introduced the first Magistrates' Courts Committee for Inner London to bring it into line with the rest of the country.

A smaller committee replacing the old Committee of Magistrates sounds reasonable to some even though it means that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate loses his job of running the service. Instead, he has become more a chairman of a board of directors.

In the chief's place comes a new Justices' Chief Executive who will be paid a much larger salary to administer the business-based system. Fine, I thought — until the changes envisaged by the new committee started giving me nightmares. The Youth Court will no longer be centrally run. The Family Panel will remain centrally organised for the present and the joint Family and Youth Courts administration could disappear this year.

It is deemed more efficient to devolve the Youth Court administration to four adult courts, where the paperwork related to our cases will be kept. The existing borough structure is expected to continue and our jurisdiction will remain that of Inner London so that we can continue to sit in any youth court.

Cynics among my colleagues, however, regard any devolution to other adult courts as the thin end of the proverbial wedge. Others believe that the expertise of magistrates and clerks might be lost. "The specialist aspect of the one-time Juvenile Court is being torn apart," said a colleague. The Juvenile Court worked extremely well from a central administration. It had economies of scale and a level of consistency both in administration and quasi-judicial procedures.

It was the Children Act in 1991 and the Criminal Justice Act in 1992 which altered everything. The public law side of the Juvenile

Court went into the new Family Panel, which also deals with private civil law relating to the family. Then the 17-year-olds were added to the newly constituted Youth Court which, unlike the Juvenile Court's mixed jurisdiction, only deals with criminal matters.

Partly as a result of this, the number of cases coming before the Youth Court has rocketed. More than 100 cases are now commonplace in one day of a borough court sitting. In one month alone, 1,006 new charges for offences allegedly committed by 803 defendants had to be serviced. It is claimed that local organisation will be better since staff and specialist clerks would be on the premises of adult courts and files could be kept under the appropriate roof. Yet even on such a devolved basis, a young person could be sent to his home court rather than the court in the borough where the alleged offence was committed. Thus the files would still have to travel. "A lot of valuable expertise and commitment will be dissipated by this arrangement," says another colleague. "And if after a year it turns into a cock-up, guess who will be blamed?"

My nightmare assumes that it will be the lay justices who will carry the can if the new system fails to work. "If it ain't broke don't fix it," goes the old adage. The centralised system may be creaking under the load but it isn't broken yet. The problem of communication with different offices rather than one central place is going to be horrendous and the cohesion of the Youth Panel's near-200 magistrates will be in danger of disappearing.

No doubt I shall be accused of being too parochial. After all, the new slimmed-down magistrates' courts committees in the rest of the country seem to be settling down, even though each bench may no longer be represented on them. Nonetheless, Inner London is a special case, and the central organisation of its courts has been envied by those outside. We have a responsibility for a huge capital city and I don't see how devolution of administration is going to help. As youth court magistrates, we also have a duty to have regard for the welfare of children who appear before us. This, too, is becoming more difficult. When I hear that adolescent girls are being remanded to Holloway Prison because secure accommodation no longer exists for them, it seems time for despair.

If money can be found for supposedly more efficient magistrates' courts, it should be found for something infinitely more important — the proper care of the young who need control but should not be in an adult prison. This is not a nightmare but reality.

● The author is an Inner London magistrate



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A job to be popular

VERONICA Lowe, the former head of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, has got a job working for the Inland Revenue. "At least it cannot be said that I take on only popular jobs," she told former colleagues. She is to be chief executive of the Valuation Office Agency, an executive agency of the IR.

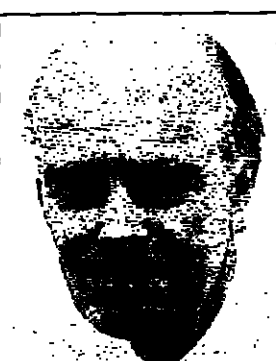
The agency undertakes rating and council tax work in England and Wales. No doubt she will bump into some of the solicitors she met while heading the SCB.

College news

THE College of Law's bid to run an approved Bar Vocational Course from September next year, when the Inns of Court's School of Law's 145-year-old monopoly on educating barristers ends, is back on track, according to a list seen by The Times.

There had been fears that

the Bar had deliberately sidelined the college in an attempt to avoid any future fusion of solicitors and barristers training. But the Bar Council's seven-member panel, headed by Sir David Calcutt, QC, is visiting its final seven short-listed institutions this week. Including the college, Nottingham Law School, the Oxford Institute, the universities



Calcutt visiting

of Northumbria and the West of England and the BPP Law School. De Montfort University and the Manchester Metropolitan University, originally on the "most-favoured" list, have been dropped.

● MILES Renshaw, outdoor clerk at the solicitors Oswald Hickson Collier, can lay claim to being the model for the main character in the BBC TV series, *Madsen* (the admirable parts of the character, that is). Mr Renshaw was taken to lunch by the star, Ian McShane, who plays an old law firm's outdoor clerk. Mr Renshaw says: "When he came, there must have been about ten secretaries in reception awaiting faxes."

Taylor-made

SEVERAL peers who spoke last week in the debate launched by Lord Taylor

against Michael Howard's sentencing plans paid him tribute before he bows out after four years as Lord Chief Justice because of ill health. Two of the most fulsome came from the Opposition spokesmen (Lord Mackay of Clashfern said some kind words when Lord Taylor's retirement was first announced).

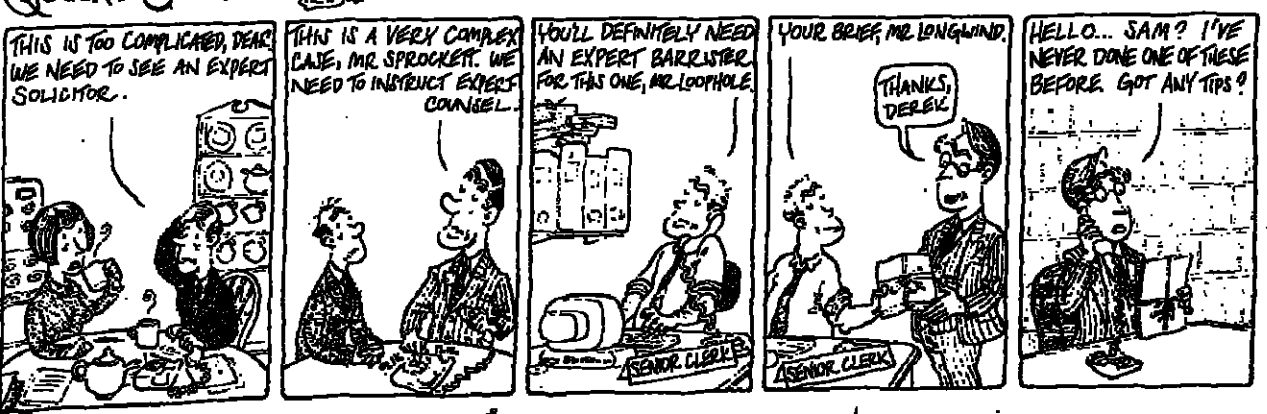
For the Liberal Democrats, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a QC, said: "You will be recognised by future generations as the greatest Lord Chief Justice of this century." Lord Taylor had sometimes needed to have the "courage of a lion in winter" for taking a public stand against the Home Secretary, Mr Howard, he said, would be remembered "as lacking the very qualities which we attribute to the present Lord Chief Justice."

For Labour, Lord Williams of Mostyn quoted a sentence he said could have been "made and minted for this Lord Chief Justice: 'I will not cut my conscience according to this year's fashion.'"

SCRIVENOR

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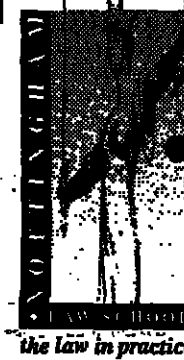
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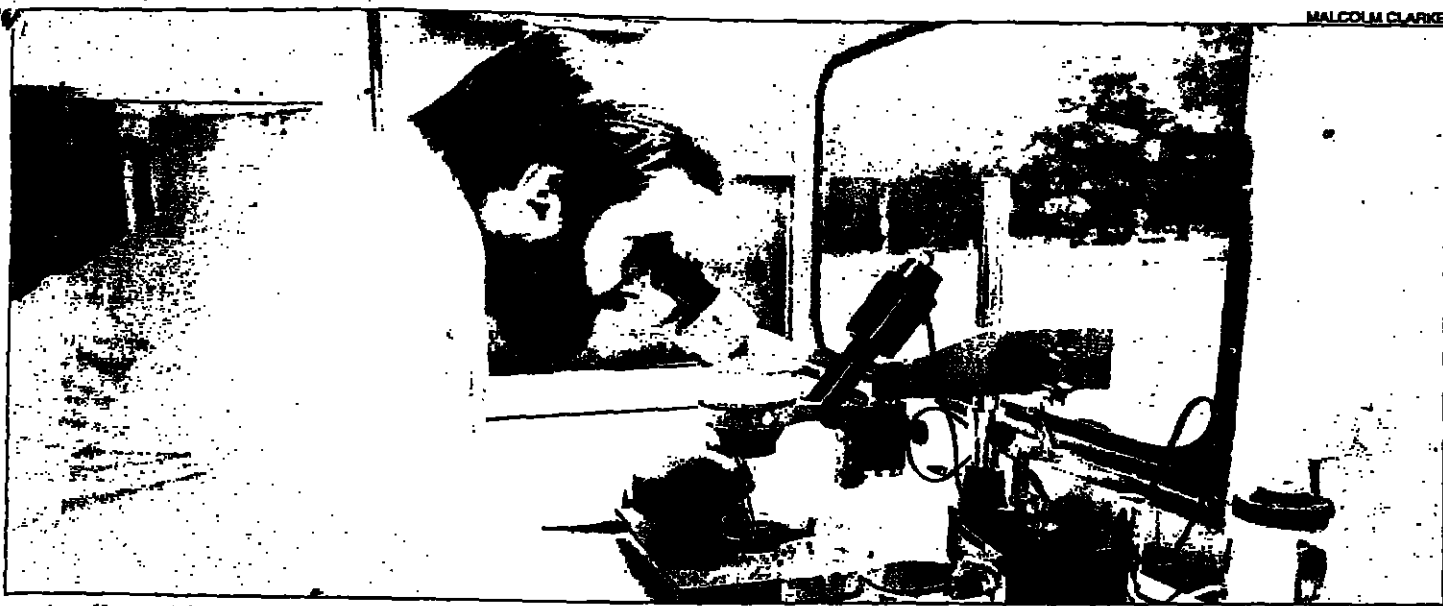
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A police mobile forensic science unit: the days when lawyers unquestioningly accepted evidence from laboratories are ending

Who checks forensics?

Fiona Bawdon detects a new willingness to challenge evidence from scientists

The revelation that contaminated testing equipment was used at the Government's Forensic Explosives Laboratory at Fort Halstead in Kent highlights the need for lawyers to challenge even the apparently strongest forensic evidence.

Only a few years ago, forensic evidence was widely regarded with the legal profession as unassailable; if the scientists fingered your client as the culprit, there was not much you could do about it.

Andrew Hall, now a barrister at Doughty Street chambers but previously a partner at the leading legal aid firm Hodge Jones & Allen, was one of the first lawyers to question that assumption publicly. Lawyers, he said, should always be sceptical of forensic evidence and should look for ways to challenge it. Forensic evidence can be wrong. When this point was put to the then chair of the Law Society's criminal law committee, he admitted it had never occurred to him.

Much has changed since then. Revelations from miscarriage of justice cases have shown scientists sometimes get it wrong. Lawyers are now much more likely to scrutinise scientific evidence for flaws. However, there is still some way to go. A leading forensic scientist claims the belief that his ilk are somehow the bringers of pristine truth still persists in some quarters, including juries, which

may give scientific evidence particular weight — which is all the more reason for defence solicitors to know how to challenge it.

Russell Stockdale, a former Home Office forensic scientist and now partner at Forensic Access, which specialises in advising on criminal defence cases, says: "Quite often, we will get a phone call from a solicitor told by counsel to contact us. They say: 'We have this case. Quite frankly, there's not much we can do because... well, it's science, isn't it?'"

But Mr Stockdale wonders how many times a solicitor will simply accept prosecution evidence. The problem seems partly cultural. Lawyers know they are guns for hire but may assume that scientists are solely seekers after truth: methodical, rigorous and cautious.

Though it would be wholly unethical for a scientist to distort or amend his findings deliberately, scientific evidence, like all other kinds, is open to interpretation. Another scientist, on exactly the same findings, might genuinely come to a different conclusion.

Forensic scientists can also often make mistakes, sometimes of the most banal kind. The problem at Fort Halstead reportedly arose because no one had thought to check an essential and sensitive piece of equipment for contamination before using it to conduct tests for Semtex. Mr Stockdale describes this omission, particularly at such a respected institution, as "bizarre".

He does not believe, however, that even the most conscientious defence lawyer could have been expected to pick up an error of this kind.

He says: "Even if they had suspected, in practical terms, there was nothing they could have done about it. To find out, they would have had to go into the building, and say: 'We're going to test every piece of equipment you use and everything you touch for contamination.'" The Legal Aid Board, he suspects, would probably not have paid for such an exercise.

Fortunately, other mistakes are more open to detection. In one case, a hair sample found at the scene of a robbery was said by the police forensic scientist to have come from the suspect. It was subsequently shown to have come from a dog. A woman was charged with killing her baby by dosing it with barbiturates. On the morning of the trial, it was discovered that the scientist had put the decimal point in the wrong place, thus multiplying the amount of the drug supposedly found in the child's body by a factor of ten. The real dose was too low to be fatal: it was a cot death.

Even where the evidence seems conclusive and samples do match, there may be more to a case than meets the eye. The police — like the scientists at Fort Halstead — may sometimes be in danger of unwittingly manufacturing evidence. For example, a man was accused of breaking into a newsagents. Glass fragments found on his clothes matched those from the shop. It was later shown that these fragments could have been transferred to him from the hands or clothes of the arresting police. In another case, a rape suspect was put in the police car in which the victim had been sitting a few hours earlier. The defence scientist showed that fibres found on him could have been transferred from the car seat.

Mr Stockdale believes the problems in this area are compounded by its being unregulated. There are no minimum standards, no minimum qualifications and no set procedures that have to be followed. Anyone with a white coat, a test tube and a bit of chutzpah can set himself up as a forensic scientist.

Police forces, which now have to buy forensic services out of pre-terminated budgets, are increasingly eschewing established laboratories and shopping around for the cheapest deal — and the quality of the evidence they are getting back is declining accordingly.

The lack of justice in Europe

Will the new EU treaty, now being finalised, really clarify extradition?

Next week's meeting in Luxembourg of the European Union Justice Council will be one of the most significant since it began. One of the main items of business will be the finalisation of a treaty to "improve" extradition.

Extradition of suspects between EU member states is an anachronism. To quote Judge Wolfgang Schomburg of the German Supreme Constitutional Court: "Non-extradition of a country's own nationals, within this community of states and in real political terms, is a relic that can hardly be justified."

However, the preamble to the treaty demonstrates that there are problems. It emphasises that "every member state has an interest in ensuring that extradition proceedings operate efficiently and rapidly, to the extent that this is compatible with... the principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms".

In practice, there is extreme practical difficulty in simplifying extradition procedures without increasing the number of infringements of Articles 5 and 6 (rights on detention and fair trial) of the convention. The signatories to the treaty also "express their confidence in the structure and operation of their judicial systems and in the capacity of all member state to ensure fair judgment".

But whatever the capacity of member states to ensure fair judgment for their own citizens, that confidence seems misplaced when it comes to foreigners. It must be significant that of the 150 or so complaints our organisation has received which give rise to concern that European Court of Human Rights rules may have been breached before or at trial, only two apply to northern European legal systems and the rest concern Mediterranean countries.

A major concern is the handicaps that foreigners face due to lack of efficient interstate communication. In practice, the outdated mechanisms and time limits of the old extradition conventions can lead to

intolerable abuse of liberty. Translation difficulties also cause injustice. The case of Brenda Price, the Harlow grandmother arrested on a day trip to France, exhibited the extremes of such interaction.

She was arrested on October 5 1995. The supporting documentation reached France on November 18 but did not reach court until January 14, 1996. Only the warrant and one other document were in French and the rest in Spanish. Some of the Spanish documents, it transpired, contradicted those officially translated into French. The

'A major concern is the handicaps that foreigners face due to lack of efficient interstate communication'

treaty at least does something about recognising the invention of the fax machine. It does nothing about the time limits or translations.

The stage of legal process at which extradition is requested merits attention. Extradition is not just a prelude to arrest and trial requiring great caution about fundamental freedoms. Why should there be any formality concerned with the return of any EU citizen once he or she has been arrested in a requesting country and bailed there on an offence that occurred there? Civil liberty arguments fail because the offender has passed into the justice system of the requesting country for good or ill and the alternative to provisional liberty is no liberty at all. On the other hand, the mechanics of notification render the common practice of trials in absentia so unsatisfactory that demands for extradition in such circumstances



Brenda Price: day trip arrest

should be excluded without mandatory retrial.

Afolabi Oso, from London, was tried in Italy while a resident there and acquitted in 1988. He moved from Italy to Germany with his wife and child in 1989. Unknown to him, the prosecution decided to appeal against his release and the appeal took place without his knowledge. He was sentenced to eight years in absentia and on returning from a holiday in France via Italy to Germany in August 1995 was arrested at the Italian border. An application to appeal against the decision was turned down and he remains in jail.

There are other Britons currently at risk, including Warren Tozer and Graham Mitchell, acquitted in Portugal of attempted murder last year. Despite the admission of the "victim" that the whole thing was an accident, a retrial had been granted on appeal.

There are many other problems concerning definitions and interactions between different clauses of the treaty that could even result in persons being extradited to a country that will convict them for behaving lawfully within their native land.

If it were not for the activities of the civil liberties information service, Statewatch, we would not be aware of the substance of the treaty; secrecy is the enemy of law reform. If such a treaty has been produced after four years of closest deliberations, it is unlikely that urgently needed law reforms dealing with the protection of European citizens' rights will feature in that other main item of business next week, the long-term programme.

At stake will be the liberty of hundreds if not thousands of innocent Europeans caught up as victims of circumstances in the judicial systems of other countries.

STEPHEN JAKOBI

© The author is a solicitor and the director of the Fair Trials Abroad Trust, an organisation for the legal rights of EU citizens. (0181-3322800).

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We are delighted to announce that the Spring 1996 Salary Survey for lawyers working in private practice and in-house is now available. Whether you manage lawyers or are seeking advice in relation to your own salary package, please contact us

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BUSINESS

Parcelforce is seeking entries for its fifth annual awards for businesses with up to 25 employees. There will be eight regional heats and a final in London. The prize is an executive business training programme at Cranfield University School of Management. For an application form, call 0800 919999.

Plans to remove the ban on disclosure of information from the VAT register have been dropped. The Forum of Small Business had campaigned against opening the register, which, it said, would be an unwelcome invasion of privacy and lead to an increase in unsolicited mail and telephone calls.

More than 60 small businesses set up with help from The Prince's Youth Business Trust will take part in a Meet The Buyer day at Old Trafford cricket ground, Manchester, on June 4. Instead of the suppliers taking stands, as they do at an exhibition, buyers from large companies and organisations will set up an office where the small businesses can present their services.

Half of small businesses have suffered crime in the past two years, and nearly a quarter have in the past three months, according to a survey by Business Pages, the telephone directory publisher. Most common are burglaries and vandalism.

A computer disk to help small firms to manage their publicity has been compiled by Lexdex, a training company. It costs £20 and uses Windows 3.1. Lexdex is at 52 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF.

Jennai Cox on a massive rejuvenation project in Halifax

New life down at the mill

The building that housed the largest carpet mill in the world and provided the main source of employment for Halifax is now generating an economic revival in the West Yorkshire town for dozens of small businesses.

Sculptors work next door to polythene bag manufacturers in the million square feet of Dean Clough. Many first-time businesses are offered favourable rates to attract them to the business centre. To Sir Ernest Hall, the businessman who bought and renovated the site with private capital in the 1980s after a successful career in textiles, it is a dream coming true.

"I wanted to do something with my success," he says. "With success came the awareness that the fortunes of many communities in the North were declining as traditional industries closed."

Sensing a growing pessimism and dependency, which he feared would drive people away from Halifax, Sir Ernest persuaded local businesses, and some further afield which he felt would fit in with the ethos of Dean Clough, to move there by offering competitive rates.

Those going into business for the first time can have rent-free office space for up to three months, yet enough money has been made to give 20 artists workshops. Instead of payment, they exhibit their paintings or sculptures round the building. In turning the 19th-century home of Crossley Carpets

into an arts, business and education centre, Sir Ernest wanted to give the community the chance to create a new future. He recruited his son, Jeremy, as managing director and bought the derelict building for £20 million in 1983.

Sir Ernest, who started out from a working-class background, says: "It required a leap of the imagination and someone with the nerve to take on the building. I've always been attracted to the idea of doing things against the trend."

Dean Clough, with its 16 large buildings on a site two thirds of a mile long, provides space for more than 200 small businesses, as well as two theatre companies and the Enterprise Campus, a local youth training consultancy. It is open seven days a week and more than 3,500 people work in businesses including printers, a farming magazine, textile-makers, designers and photographers. The first businessman to move in during the late 1980s, a motor mechanic, is still there.

"When I started my textile business in 1961 I realised running a business was a creative process similar to composing music," Sir Ernest, 66, says. The aim of the centre, where the relationship between the arts, business and education can be developed to the benefit of all, is known as a "practical Utopia".

Dean Clough, Halifax, West Yorkshire (Tel 01422 344555).



Sir Ernest Hall, creating a "practical Utopia" at Dean Clough

Students like look of being their own boss

By Sally Watts

OF THE top ten most popular employers, undergraduates put working for themselves third. In a recent survey of 10,000 final-year students at 24 universities, self-employment proved more attractive than even companies such as Marks & Spencer.

Livewire, the Shell UK scheme that helps those aged 16 to 25 to start and to develop a business, reports "a significant increase" in graduates and undergraduates wanting help to begin their own enterprise.

Sandy Ogilvie, Livewire's director, says a tough jobs market encourages those with business ideas to try them out. Nearly half of last year's new businesses were begun and run by new graduates, often using up-to-date skills from their degrees. These include new developments in technology, such as multimedia, computer-aided design and the Internet. Creative businesses were also popular, including ceramics and children's furniture.

However, the 1996 Livewire Business Start-up Award of £5,000, announced last week, was won by two young men from Glasgow, who left school to become apprentice toolmakers. Michael Richmond, 25, and Gary Tibbitt, 24, started Optimum Test Solutions last September, and achieved their first year's financial target in six months.

Now, the two are working towards £250,000 turnover, and will use their prize as working capital. They design and make equipment

for testing electronic products, such as mobile phones and computers, both before and after completion. Clients include Motorola, IBM, and Hewlett Packard.

Backing has come from the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, the Glasgow Regeneration Fund, and the Greater Easthouse Development Company.

Joint runners-up were Simon Nezi, who runs a hair-care service in Childwall, Liverpool; and David Pearson and Matthew Alcock, of Network Advantage, an Internet consultancy in Croydon, Surrey. Both businesses won £1,000.

As an export incentive, Air UK is offering 100 free flights to young owners exporting for the first time. Livewire: Tel 0191-261 5584.



"Is this a late working breakfast or an early business lunch?"

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6111

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FAX:
0171 782 7930

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ASIA Travel Agency in a prime East London Town, For sale at £125,000. Profitable year on year. Call 0208 543 877.

FOR SALE: Themed Restaurant, Great Location, South, 400 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

HEALTH STORE South West Surrey, turnover £100,000, net profit £15,000. Call 01483 522222.

ISLE OF COLL Interiors, Scotland, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

ISLE OF MAN Private Hire, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

LANE ACADEMY + Courses, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

MIDLANDS based, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

NEAR EYE, Suffolk, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

OFFICE Furniture Company, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

PRIVATE LTD Retail Company, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY to purchase, 100 covers, 1/2 £120 million potential, net profit £100,000. Call 01823 522222.

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BUSINESS WANTED

CAR BODY SHOP/ Accident repair business wanted in the North East. Call 01823 522222.

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BRAND NEW Franchise For Sale

Shake-up at Hambros enters second phase

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS has started the second stage of a massive restructuring plan that has seen it return to its core merchant banking roots and begin to expand into less risky business.

Hambros, one of the last remaining independent merchant banks in the City, announced the first stage of its shake-up last November, when it unveiled a first-half loss of £7.7 million.

The first stage included running down the corporate loan book, after the decision to pull out of straight corporate lending and stick to lending as part of a wider service.

The bank is to comment on its progress next week when it is expected to unveil a return to profitability in the second half, albeit at a much lower level than in the previous year. Analysts are forecasting a fall in profits of more than 50 per cent, to £17 million, although Philip Gibbs, of BZW, expects the dividend to be held at 7.5p. A reduction in the loan book is also expected. It is also likely to comment on its progress in finding a partner for its fund management business.

Restructuring this year included closing the equities clearing business of Hambros Clearing and the sale of an

Australian stock-broking business.

Tony Mallin, head of banking, at Hambros, one of a new generation of management at Hambros, has taken charge of the changes, has taken charge of a large part of the implementation of the second stage of restructuring.

In the second stage, Mr Mallin is concentrating on building up the structured debt, project finance and private banking operations. Hambros is also attempting to build closer links between these and its corporate finance business. Mr Mallin said that the structured debt arm is

attempting to probe customer requirements — lending money in conjunction with tax services and corporate finance and advisory work.

The bank is also seeking to turn its project finance arm into more of an international operation. As this business takes off, said Mr Mallin, the bank will expand its capital markets operation which currently concentrates on sterling bond business.

Hambros's private banking operations are to be pulled together under one management, said Mr Mallin. The bank is looking for someone to head the operation.

Call to toughen up trade

Individuals and companies should have the right to bring cases before an independent competition authority, a Demos report argues today.

The think-tank criticises British competition policy as too dependent on the executive, with the Secretary of State controlling referrals to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and following the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading.

Demos argues for the establishment of a single integrated competition body, independent of government, to help to restore bite to competition policy.

Hilton sale

Ladbroke Group has exchanged contracts with Great Eagle Holdings, based in Hong Kong, for the £100 million sale of the Langham Hilton Hotel. The sale is at less than the refurbished hotel's book value. Hilton International will continue to operate the hotel. The proceeds will be partly used to reduce group debt.

Halfords jobs

Halfords, the bicycle and car care chain owned by Boots, is to open 25 superstores, creating 500 jobs. The company, which sells one in three bicycles bought in the UK, said demand had been strong.

Duralay deal

CINven, the venture capital company, is backing the £34 million management buyout of Duralay, the UK's largest carpet underlay and accessories maker, from BBA group.



Diplomatic mission: John Major, left, with Chris Patten, right, and Victor Fung, chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the colony

Hong Kong businessmen hit back at Major rebuke

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE seven major Hong Kong business groups which were rebuked by John Major last week for their criticism of Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, yesterday counter-attacked by telling the Prime Minister that he had disappointed them.

The statement from the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and six other associations and confederations was counterbalanced by a survey of 62 members of the colony's political and economic elite,

which expressed fears about the future of Hong Kong far more serious than those voiced by Mr Patten.

The open response to the Prime Minister expressed "surprise" that he had advised the Governor's critics to express gratitude to Mr Patten. The Hong Kong businessmen's statement added: "One would have thought it a matter of duty for the highest-paid official to do his job, rather than a case of the taxpayer owing gratitude."

The businessmen also said

that they expected the Governor to "project a proper image of the territory".

But in a survey released over the weekend by Global Group, the American company that concentrates on business strategies, 57 per cent of an elite group of business and political leaders in the colony said that after 1997 they expected Hong Kong would be ruled by officials appointed by Peking and that there would be a rise in kidnappings of businessmen and in crime and corruption.

Thomas Potts soars in busy AIM week

THE Alternative Investment Market was again busy last week as recent newcomers to the market for smaller companies continued to do well.

The top performer was Thomas Potts, the printing company associated with Nigel Wray, an entrepreneur noted for finding potential; its shares continued to storm

ahead, ending the week at 14p, against a 5p placing price. Mulberry, the leather goods company placed at 153p, surged to 205p, before

settling at 183p. Traders also reported interest in ENR Holdings, the forestry group; its shares, placed at 35p, ended at 39p, with talk of more

demand in coming weeks. Epic Multimedia disappointed, ending the week at 90p, against a 105p placing. Whitecross Group, the chain of dental practices, is looking to join AIM with a trimmed-down issue at 84p a share on Thursday.

PHILIP PANGALOS

1996		Mid cap (million)	Price price	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E	1995		Mid cap (million)	Price price	Wtdy +/-	Yld %	P/E		
High	Low						High	Low							
134	109	18.10	AMCO Corp	127	-	4.9	17.8	2750	2550	53.70	Laurie Group	2750	+200	3.2	14.0
135	118	2.57	Alcoa Recruit	43	-	-	-	2850	2550	46.40	La Riches Sls	280	+3	6.9	27.0
136	110	21.20	Active Imaging	116	-	-	-	95	85	60.50	London Asia Pk	93	-	-	-
137	111	23.60	A de Gruy	160	-	4.7	-	70	56	1.45	London Town	58	-	-	-
138	112	18.50	African Gold	18	-	-	-	325	200	18.50	Lorien Grp	325	+10	1.5	-
139	113	5.57	Abnema & Bd	18	-	-	-	25	16	10.00	Marr & Ores	17	-	2.4	23.0
140	114	5.22	Alpha Definition	17	-	-	-	135	113	33.70	Marine & Marc S	104	-	-	-
141	115	38.20	Arm Si Brewery	410	-	5.3	12.3	117	92	47.90	Megamedia Ws	89	-	-	-
142	116	5.48	Arm Si CV Pl	925	-	8.6	-	99	79	Megamedia Ws	89	-	-	-	
143	117	69.00	Antony	83	-	-	-	111	86	6.84	Mellak	137	+2	2.8	-
144	118	1.89	Aron Progs	131	-	-	-	475	120	81.00	Memory Com	137	-16	-	-
145	119	21.10	Ask Central	30	-	-	-	22	19	17.50	Metromedia Films	230	-5	2.4	23.0
146	120	1.08	Albany Trust	60	-	-	-	235	156	8.93	Multicashal	118	-	-	-
147	121	7.40	Ballymore	54	-	-	-	200	67	37.30	Multibury Group	188	-	-	-
148	122	4.62	Barrs Heds	18	-	-	-	89	67	21.20	Multimedia	200	-	-	-
149	123	4.85	Bellco	43	-	-	-	240	205	24.80	WFG Sg	200	-	2.8	14.0
150	124	0.99	Bonness Leds	145	-	3.9	-	210	175	14.10	Nash (Wm)	250	-	-	-
151	125	11.70	Bonness Leds CV Pl	60	-	-	-	355	335	8.85	Nell Clark	350	-5	2.1	17.0
152	126	49.30	Brexit	416	-	3.3	2.2	470	200	12.90	Nelson Cobbold	73	+85	1.5	23.0
153	127	12.50	CA Coutts Heds	118	-	-	-	73	63	-	Norhones	63	-2	-	-
154	128	0.96	CCI Heds	110	-	-	-	76	63	7.22	Nth Petm	63	-	-	-
155	129	0.13	CCI Founder Sls	110	-	-	-	73	63	0.13	Nth Petm Wts	60	-	-	-
156	130	4.85	Cable Lms	170	-	1.5	14.0	76	63	0.13	Nth Petm Wts	60	-	-	-
157	131	7.38	Caladonian Tst	65	-	-	-	70	53	17.80	Nursing Home	115	-1	1.3	30.0
158	132	2.07	Capital & Wdn	74	-	-	-	116	111	14.50	Old English Pub	118	-	-	-
159	133	12.60	Carden	73	-	0.8	17.0	124	90	8.33	Omnica	135	-	0.5	-
160	134	16.40	Carden	73	-	8.9	9.1	136	84	26.00	Omnica	135	-	-	-
161	135	3.50	Cassidy Bros	64	-	-	-	51	16	6.88	Optical Care	100	+8	-	-
162	136	1.79	Cavendish W F	41	-	-	-	100	66	23.20	Optical Care	100	+7	-	-
163	137	1.6	Celebrated Group	17	-	-	-	1	1	18.70	Pacific Media	114	+1	-	-
164	138	45.50	Celtic Pl Sls	175	-	-	-	185	43	37.00	Pacific Med Ltd	165	+62	-	-
165	139	64.50	Celtic Pl Sls	175	-	-	-	309	177	4.78	Park Andros Inc	90	-	-	-
166	140	16.40	CI Commes(TV)	122	-	2.5	15.7	200	180	33.00	Pats (Lvr)	200	-	2.2	-
167	141	16.40	CI Commes(TV)	122	-	-	-	445	365	97.00	Pt City	400	+2	-	-
168	142	63.10	Charmell Ltd	65	-	-	-	184	125	33.70	Polymers: Pharms	160	+30	-	-
169	143	63.10	Charmell Ltd	65	-	-	-	565	400	7.00	Procter Ah S	560	-	-	-
170	144	0.99	Chen Homes	110	-	-	-	105	103	15.50	Primary Hlth Pr	103	-	-	-
171	145	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	67	32	5.21	Raphail Zm	58	-8	2.7	36.0
172	146	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	93	43	5.06	Reclis	85	+19	-	-
173	147	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	105	93	1.00	Revelation Sps	93	-	-	-
174	148	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	17	16	11.20	Riceman Inc	12	-	-	-
175	149	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	98	63	5.06	Romica	98	+20	-	-
176	150	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	4	3	3.60	Rushmore Wynne	4	-	-	-
177	151	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	125	31	0.14	Rush Whts	31	-	-	-
178	152	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	31	20	9.13	SIC Sals	31	-	-	-
179	153	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	31	20	2.16	Seacoast Inds	31	-	4.0	29.0
180	154	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	43	28	14.00	Scott Prid	33	-	-	-
181	155	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	320	270	14.60	Scrutins	305	-	5.3	-
182	156	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	80	30	2.04	Sgt Sealing	305	-	-	-
183	157	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	2	2	-	Silham	2	-	-	-
184	158	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	4	3	8.80	Sin Bus Serv	4	+2	-	-
185	159	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	1	1	0.29	Sin Bus Wts	1	-	-	-
186	160	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	565	524	137.20	Southern Vects	582	-2	3.4	15.3
187	161	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	68	50	-	Southern Vects	68	-	-	-
188	162	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	615	255	86.90	Stanford Rock	473	+60	-	-
189	163	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	95	75	6.55	Stanford	93	-	-	-
190	164	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	227	122	22.70	Strey, F. Inns	93	-	-	-
191	165	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	136	116	16.50	Syst Intex Recl	123	-	-	-
192	166	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	915	585	36.00	TRACER Nebst	595	-	1.1	26.0
193	167	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	185	180	39.80	Tridpoint Fcl	185	-	-	-
194	168	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	55	38	4.34	Tide Crd Wts	47	-	-	-
195	169	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	27	25	-	Tide Crd Wts	27	-	-	-
196	170	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	116	101	17.30	Told	103	-3	-	-
197	171	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	56	43	2.99	Ton. Housds	53	-	-	-
198	172	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	180	170	5.78	Trinity Corp	170	-	3.6	-
199	173	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	170	165	11.00	Trinity Cam Pl	170	-	-	-
200	174	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	74	46	342.90	Truocador	69	-	-	-
201	175	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	42	40	3.83	Unihart	42	-	-	-
202	176	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	458	393	7.00	Utd Auctions	393	-	1.9	-
203	177	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	2010	1474	14.10	VC	1474	-	-	-
204	178	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	16	13	43.00	Versailles Grp	16	-	2.4	25.0
205	179	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	375	130	11.20	Vision	375	-	-	-
206	180	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	428	232	-	Voss	11	-	-	-
207	181	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	13	7	-	Westernstar Sacs	17	+1	-	-
208	182	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	58	3	-	Weld Sacs Wm	1	-	-	-
209	183	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	19	13	5.25	Western Selectd	15	-	-	-
210	184	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	5	5	-	Western Sel Wrt	5	-	-	-
211	185	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	31	26	2.95	Westmount, Engy	28	-	-	-
212	186	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	145	125	6.42	Wf Chas & M	125	+12	-	-
213	187	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	75	125	-	Wynnsay Progs	125	-	-	-
214	188	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-	300	170	25.80	Zero	280	-	-	-
215	189	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
216	190	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
217	191	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
218	192	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
219	193	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
220	194	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
221	195	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
222	196	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
223	197	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
224	198	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
225	199	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
226	200	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
227	201	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
228	202	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
229	203	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
230	204	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
231	205	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
232	206	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
233	207	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
234	208	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
235	209	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
236	210	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
237	211	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
238	212	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
239	213	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
240	214	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
241	215	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
242	216	12.70	Chub Partners	510	-	-	-								
243	217														

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Dunedin Worldwide, Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust, M&G Income Investment Trust, Smart (J) Contractors, Finafs: Blacks Leisure, British Investment Trust, Delyn Group, Euclidian, M&G Recovery Investment Trust, Monks Investment Trust, Pysu.

TOMORROW

Interim: Abacus Polar Group, Carlton Communications, Finsbury Growth, Melod Russell Holdings, Finafs: Anglian Water, Borthwicks, Bristol Evening Post, Dawson International, Steel Authority, Tamaris, Tandem Group, Economic statistics: Gilt auction (£3 billion Treasury 8 per cent 2021).

THURSDAY

Interim: ABI Leisure, Batt Brothers, Edinburgh New Tiger, Foreign & Colonial Pop Investment Trust, M&G Group, Northern Venture Trust, Raglan Properties, Ransomes, Speri (GA), Finafs: Automotive Products, David Glass Associates, Dragon Oil, Kleinwort Emerging, Korse Liberalisation, Learmonth & Burchett Management Systems, London International Group, Mid Kent Holdings, South West Water, United Utilities, Warrford Investments, Economic statistics: Global trade balance (March), non-EU trade balance (April), major British banking groups' mortgage lending (April).

FRIDAY

Interim: Broadgate Investment Trust, Finafs: EID Parry India, Elf Petroleum (UK), Finsbury Trust, Jupiter Geared Capital, Property Partnerships, Sketchley, TR Property Investment Trust, Economic statistics: Final M4 money supply (April).

COMPANIES



A good show so far from Carlton

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS: A strong performance from its video and sound production operations should help Carlton, the media group headed by Michael Green, to tune in to a healthy set of first-half figures when it reports tomorrow.

In spite of a flat UK television advertising market, Vignesh Padiachy, media analyst at BZW, is looking for interim pre-tax profits for the six months to March 31 to advance to £135.5 million (£120 million). Market forecasts range from £131 million to £142 million. An interim dividend of 4.2p (3.72p) is predicted.

Broadcast television is the mainstay of the company, with Carlton operating the commercial television franchises for London on weekdays and the Midlands all week.

Analysts think that the group may emphasise weak income from television advertising, though this should be offset by a better contribution from Technicolor, the film and television services business. They expect a solid performance from Quantel, Carlton's video production and distribution arm, while Solid State Logic, which manufactures equipment for the film, television and audio industries, should also please the market.

Pickwick, Carlton's video publishing and distribution business, should show a reduced loss.

Attention will focus on current trading and prospects at a time when there has been much activity in the media sector. Analysts await news on Carlton's

next move, with speculation of a possible deal in Europe or the Far East.

UNITED UTILITIES: The company created from last year's £1.8 billion merger between North West Water and Norweb is the biggest of the four utilities reporting this week and unveils full-year figures on Thursday.

There should be few surprises in store after the group's announcement in March, when it caused a storm by revealing plans to raise prices, to shed a total of 2,500 jobs and to withdraw from retailing.

The measures are designed to save £140 million a year, although the group's ability to achieve it remains in some doubt. According to NatWest Securities, the normalised pre-tax profit figure is set to leap from £298 million to £348 million.

The headline figure is likely to be £121 million, down from £284 million last time with just five months of Norweb included. A final payment of 19.38p is on the cards, stretching the total payout to 32.4p, an increase of almost a third.

ANGLIAN WATER: Full-year figures tomorrow should produce a respectable performance, with pre-tax profits set to grow by £15 million, to £245 million. Market forecasts range from £230 million to £246 million. A generous final dividend of 20.1p has been pencilled in, lifting the total to 29p, an increase of 11.5 per cent. Increased pumping costs should



Profits are advancing under Michael Green at Carlton

have been countered by savings from restructuring. Operating profits are expected to have grown 10 per cent to £305 million.

SOUTH WEST WATER: Thursday's full-year figures will be overshadowed to a certain extent by last week's referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of both bids for the company, by Severn Trent and by Wessex, its neighbour. After achieving £54 million at the

halfway stage, final pre-tax profits of about £98 million have been pencilled in, compared with last year's figure of £101 million.

After an increase in the interim dividend of almost 8 per cent, to 9.8p, a final dividend of 19.4p is forecast, giving a total of 29.2p, up 7 per cent.

MID KENT HOLDINGS: A brief respite from the French siege will allow the company to unveil a respectable set of full-

year figures on Thursday. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of £10 million, compared with £8 million last time.

Only last week, a bid by General Utilities and Saur, the French group, was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, in spite of earlier calls by Mid Kent to rule the bid illegal.

At the half-way stage, the group reported pre-tax profits of £5.34 million, but the final outcome may include provisions against the French assault. Shareholders are likely to see a 13 per cent rise in the total payout, to 14.2p.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL GROUP: The condoms to surgical gloves group has seen strong recovery after reorganisation. James Culverwell, of Merrill Lynch, expects margin recovery to help final pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, to climb to £26.5 million (£15.2 million). A dividend of 1.75p (1p) is predicted.

DAWSON INTERNATIONAL: The Pringle knitwear group should confirm tomorrow that its recovery programme is on course. The company has undergone a massive shake-up since its worst year in the 12 months to March 31, 1994, when it plummeted into a taxable loss of £98 million.

UBS thinks Dawson, in its latest annual results, will have pushed pre-tax earnings up to £9.5 million, from £1.7 million last time. A maintained dividend of 3p is forecast.

UK growth to be revised

This is a thin week for British statistics, although there will be considerable market focus on publication of the latest report on Britain from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in the second half of the week. This will revise down British growth this year from the 2.4 per cent that was judged to be attainable in the OECD's December report to little more than 2 per cent. This is largely because of an unexpectedly sharp slowdown in European economies, which has hit British exports.

Otherwise, the main focus in Britain will be on Thursday's visible trade figures for March, which are expected to show a deficit of about £1 billion, compared with a shortfall of £1.5 billion in February, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International. April figures for non-EU trade are expected to show a deficit of £750 million after March's trade gap of £571 million. The only other key statistical release in Britain this week is personal borrowing, on Friday. The market expects a modest acceleration in consumer credit in April.

Among other data awaited by the markets are figures for Japanese retail sales, due today, and industrial production, due tomorrow, which are expected to show that a modest economic recovery is under way. Inflation figures on Friday are expected to show that consumer price inflation in May was 0.1 per cent, suggesting that there is no pressure for any tightening of monetary policy in Japan.

Another focus will be the Bundesbank's policymaking council meeting on Thursday. West German consumer price inflation is expected to edge up to perhaps 1.3 per cent in May, from 1.2 per cent in April, and the Bundesbank is expected to leave unchanged its rates — including its repo rate, currently fixed at 3.3 per cent.

JANET BUSH

Why inflation may lie low, whoever wins next election

What justifies the continued high spread of gilts over most other European bonds? There are three answers and they are all related — politics, money and inflation. But, on all three, the market has got it wrong and gilts remain very good value.

Some people profess to worry that as the general election — and presumably the prospect of a Labour government — draws near, the market will plunge. But we find this view curious. The opinion polls have been all one way for the last three years and more. Moreover, because of splits in the Conservative Party and Mr Major's dwindling majority, the market has had to come to terms with the prospect of a general election being forced on the Government at almost any time. Accordingly, it would have been sensible for the market to have discounted a Labour government already and it is sensible for investors to assume that it has. So the advent of the election and even a change of government, as and when it comes, should justify no more than a wobble.

But do a Labour government's likely actions justify the current spread of some 170 basis points over Germany? The history of the last Labour government says yes — but the history of previous Labour governments says no. The market myth is that Labour presides over inflationary laxity. Yet if you are asked to put the surname of a Chancellor of the Exchequer before the word "boom", three names spring to mind, and they are all Conservatives — Maude, Barber and Lawson. And with Labour keen to count for something in the councils of Europe, which-

GILT-EDGED

er or not they opted to take Britain into monetary union, they would not be able to choose a much looser fiscal policy than the present Government. They would decide to be tight — just like everybody else.

However, the market bears see cause to worry about inflation whoever is in power. The rate of growth of broad money, at about 10 per cent, supposedly signals an upsurge of inflation in about two

Labour would not be able to choose a much looser fiscal policy

years' time. But since the beginning of the year, the M4 figures have been artificially inflated by the opening of the gilt repo market. Without this distortion, M4 would be nearly back within the target range. Moreover, the recent acceleration comes after a period of very low M4 growth. Could the two be related? Far from being landed with loads of excess money, people may be only now building their money holdings back up to where they would like them.

But even economists who take the same jaundiced view of the money numbers as we do see a non-monetary reason to be concerned about inflation prospects, namely a prospective surge of growth, driven by

consumers buoyed up by Tassas, building society payouts, gas rebates, tax cuts and the reviving housing market.

There is a lot to this. We expect consumer spending to pick up, but it is likely to stop well before it reaches the bonanza stage. People are too worried about their jobs, and their debts, as well as about the prospects of a Labour government, to push the boat out. Meanwhile, manufacturing is stuck in recession. While markets worry about super-strong growth in the future, the current reality is of growth turning out to be weaker than most people expected.

Moreover, even though the rate of economic growth will probably pick up, it can be accompanied by falling rates of inflation. Over the last three years, the UK inflation rate has been battered by a sharp drop in sterling, a big rise in commodity prices, a substantial rise in indirect taxes and pay settlements driven up by higher headline inflation. Now these adverse influences are falling out, and some are even reversing. Commodity prices have stabilised and sterling has been rising. As headline inflation falls, pay settlements will edge down, and this will improve the prospects for underlying inflation later on.

This, rather than political factors, provides the more likely source of surprises for the gilt market over the year ahead — inflation heading down to territory well within the target range, and set to stay there, whoever wins the election.

ROGER BOOTLE
Chief Economist,
The HSBC Group

Turning on to nuclear power

By Christine Buckley

THE television campaign promoting the sell-off of nuclear power is launched today, marking the Government's trickiest privatisation so far.

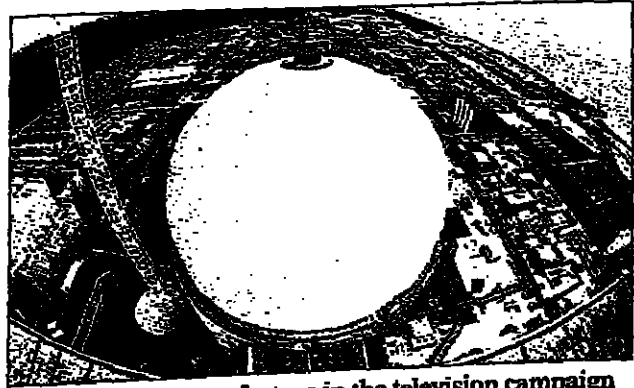
Widespread fears about nuclear safety, whether well-founded or not, have to be grappled with, while the investment potential is talked up

amid sliding City forecasts. The looming sphere of Sizewell B will not be appearing in the nation's living-rooms. Unlike the sell-off of Railtrack, which made heavy play of its nationwide lines and gauges, the Government does not consider the assets of British Energy to be its big

selling point. Rather, the multi-million campaign of television and newspaper advertising will focus on how people use energy. It will endeavour to make nuclear power a more homely commodity and could highlight the extent of nuclear-generated electricity, which fuels about 30 per cent of the country.

The campaign, drafted by Lowe Howard Spink, will run for about a week to stimulate interest in the privatisation before the publication of the prospectus on June 10.

Individual investors are expected to be awarded about 30 per cent of the shares. Share shops, which will register applications, will carry a package of incentives for private investors. The flotation, which is expected to value the company at between £1.5 billion and £2 billion, is set for mid July.



Sizewell B will not feature in the television campaign

NOTICE OF MEETING

Clerical Medical INVESTMENT GROUP

THE CHOICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society (the "Society") will be held at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel and Conference Centre, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 1PP on the 21st day of June 1996 at 11.00 am when the following resolution will be proposed as a Special Resolution.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

THAT:

- the Scheme providing for the transfer of part of the long term business, as defined in the Insurance Companies Act 1982 (the "Act"), of the Society to Clerical Medical Investment Group Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Halifax Building Society pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the Act (the "Scheme") as set out in the document marked "A" produced to the Meeting and signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman, with or subject to any modification or condition that may be approved or imposed by the Court, be and it is hereby approved and the directors of the Society be and they are hereby authorised and instructed to do such acts and things on behalf of the Society as they consider necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying the same into effect and of securing the sanction of the Scheme pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 2C of the Act;
- subject to and conditionally upon the Scheme being sanctioned by order of the Court and taking effect, the Laws and Regulations of the Society be and they are hereby amended as follows:
 - by the deletion of Regulations 4 to 8 (inclusive), 9(b) and (c), 66, 95 and 96;
 - by the insertion of the following new Rule 4:

"Members"

(a) Clerical Medical Investment Group Limited and HCM Holdings Limited shall be members and such other persons as Clerical Medical Investment Group Limited shall nominate from time to time by notice in writing to the Society shall become members at the time of receipt by the Society of the relevant notice in writing accompanied by their written agreement to become members.

(b) The membership of each person who is or becomes a member pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Regulation shall subsist until such time as the person in question gives notice in writing of the cessation of that person's membership to the Society."
 - by the deletion in Regulation 11(c) of the words "not less than 250 members" and their replacement by the words "not less than 2 members";
 - by the deletion in Regulation 19(a) of the words "Seven persons present" and their replacement by the words "Two persons present";
 - by the deletion in Regulation 24 of the words "ten members" and their replacement by the words "two members";
 - by the deletion of the second sentence of Regulation 34;
 - by the deletion in Regulation 43 of the words "shall not be less than eight nor more than eighteen" and their replacement by the words "shall not be less than four";
 - by the deletion in Regulation 44 of all words following the words "There shall be no upper age limit for Directors";
 - by the deletion of paragraphs (e) and (f) of Regulation 57 and the redenomination of paragraphs (g) to (i) inclusive of Regulation 57 as paragraphs (e) to (h);
 - by deletion in Regulation 70(a) of all words following the words "shall be" and their replacement by the word "two";
 - by the deletion in Regulation 94(a) of the words "allocation to policies eligible to participate in the profits of such funds" and their replacement by the word "distribution";
 - by the deletion in Regulation 98(a) of the word "member" and its replacement by the word "policyholder"; and
 - by the deletion of Regulation 101 in its entirety and its replacement by the following:

"Rights of members in a winding up"

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall be divided among those members who were members as at the commencement of the winding up or dissolution in equal shares"; and
- subject to and conditionally upon the Scheme being sanctioned by order of the Court and taking effect, the members of the Society at the Effective Date (as defined in the Scheme) shall cease to be members on such date and, in substitution therefor, the members of the Society shall be those persons designated as members in accordance with the Laws and Regulations of the Society (as amended by this resolution).

Principal Office:
15 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LQ

Notes:

- Any Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member of the Society) as his proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him. A proxy is not entitled to speak at the meeting except to demand or join in demanding a poll.
- To be valid, an instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing, executed by or on behalf of the appointor, in the form approved by the Board on 15 May 1996, as set out in the Proxy Form being sent to Members or in any usual form (but incorporating reference to the policy number of at least one of the policies by virtue of which the Member is entitled to vote at the meeting) and such instrument and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is executed, or a copy of such power of attorney or authority certified notariately or in some other way approved by the Board, must be deposited at the following address: Clerical Medical Investment Group, Department BS 528, Bristol BS38 7HX not later than 11.00 am on 19 June 1996.
- Members intending to attend and vote personally should bring with them the Admission Card which they will have received attached to the Proxy Form or, alternatively, must provide details of their policy and some means of identification. Holders of proxies should provide details of the proxies they hold together with some means of identification. Please register on arrival at the meeting. Registration will commence at 9.30 am.
- Copies of the Circular are being dispatched to Members and policyholders of the Society this week and will be available, free of charge, at the Society's principal office from 3 June 1996, to Members and policyholders who have not already received a copy.

Welcome back, Doctor, whoever you are

C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas le Doctor Who. Actually, it was only fairly magnificent, but on a wet Monday we weren't going to argue about that. For years, people have wondered what Doctor Who (BBC) would look like if it had some decent money spent on it. Now we know — it looked different, very different.

This, of course, was the *Doctor Who* that the BBC was too mean to make. Despite the tireless clamour of its fans, despite the growing worldwide appetite for television in which things go bump in the fifth dimension, it was only the open cheque book of Universal Television that ensured the Doctor got an eighth regeneration at all. Inevitably, this new lease of life was secured at heavy cost. Last night's feature-length film was awfully, awfully American.

Now, this was not necessarily a bad thing. After 30-odd years of

materialising in the same Surrey gravel pit, it was high time that the Doctor got to go somewhere interesting. San Francisco? Barring a slight worry that most of its inhabitants already had sonic screw-drivers, I had no problem with San Francisco.

But I did have a bit of a problem with what happened once the Tardis, still sounding like an asthma stainer motor materialised in one of those steam-filled back alleys, complete with chained and chained wire gate at one end. I waited for a naked Arnold Schwarzenegger to tumble into it as he does in all the Terminator films. Instead a gang of American Asians pitched up and shot the Doctor's seventh regeneration, Sylvester McCoy. That, as they say, was just the start.

It quickly became clear, however, that the ambitions of the American producers and the hopes of British devotees were occupying

different dimensions. What the Americans wanted was another *New Adventures of Superman*, where a naïve but kinda attractive superhero goes round thwarting the most evil of villains, the most attractive and defined. In 1996, career woman, Grace Holloway, low-cut ball-gown may have been the most arresting outfit since Leela's little chamois number but her character was pure Luis Lano.

Whovians (if that is the right word) hoping for nostalgic echoes of the series' much travelled-over past were in for a disappointment. The Doctor, not a passing mention for exterminating the Master (of course, they hadn't, he'd simply turned into a long, wriggly special effect) and that was about it. Instead, we were treated to a tawdry of America's rather more recent cinematic past. Lots of *Terminator*, bit of *Ghostbusters*, a touch of

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Indiana Jones... all good films, but they are not *Doctor Who*.

Paul McGann, once he had regenerated in the hospital morgue, definitely was. He at least looks the part of the frock-coated eighth doctor and once he curbs a slight tendency to mumble he should sound it too. But perhaps his lips were still recovering from the after effects of the Doctor's first kiss.

If the series is to return, it will need stronger scripts than this simplistic offering, which struggled to fill 55 minutes and laboured somewhat in its search for wit. Although it was splendid to see the Earth being saved by a beautiful woman pushing two bits of wire together again, little of what went before made much sense.

Why had the Eye of Harmony not been opened for 700 years when any old human could do it? Why did its opening suddenly restore the Doctor's memory (thankfully putting an end to awful "Who am I?" lines)? And why did it require an atomic clock to close it again? I'm not even sure that who knows. Still, it was good to see the old Time Lord back and I hope we don't have to wait another seven years before his next outing.

Time travel also features large in *Bramwell* (ITV). Each week a 20th-century storyline is picked up by a Carlton Tardis and transport-

ed back to 19th-century London. Last night, it was the tale of an effete young man succumbing to a fatal infection of the blood. I wonder where they got that from?

The love that dare not speak its name was definitely news to the wholesome Eleanor Bramwell (Jemma Redgrave). "How unspeakable," she said, when Dr Marsham (Kevin McNamara) explained all. "His disease is one we can't yet cure," said Marsham, protesting just a little too much, surely.

Well, perhaps. For after Dr Bramwell had swapped outrage for guilt (yes again, I'm afraid), her patients are dropping like nine-pins in this series. Marsham had a little more to say on the subject. "We are all of us tempted in our different ways. Our lot is to resist temptation and suffer in silence... or pay the price." Who knows what secrets he has been

hiding behind that droopy moustache? Well, certainly not old Goody Two-Shoes, Dr Bramwell.

One of the many secrets that Greg Dyke hides behind that messy beard is a low 4501-trillion-millionaire media tycoon can still cut the mustard as a sports reporter and presenter of the excellent *Fair Game* (Channel 4). He shouldn't be able to get away with this man-of-the-people act but somehow he does, meandering with amiable purpose through the sporting subject of the week.

Last night, with the football fest of Euro 96 almost upon us, it was the treatment we got by tabloid newspapers to England football managers. "Swedes 2: Turnips 1" said the *Sun* headline that eventually did for Graham Taylor. "I thought it was a very good headline," said Taylor, which made you wonder what Terry Venables made of yesterday's offering: "Hong Kong".

6.00am Business Breakfast (3886)

6.00 BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (9517)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (CeeFax) (719848)

9.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5) (7101883)

9.50 FILM: The Crimson Pirate (1952)

Swashbuckling romp with Burt Lancaster Directed by Robert Siodmak (CeeFax)

Includes 11.00 News and weather (41281799)

11.50 Lifford (1) (4050461) 12.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (1412022)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (1) (5654954)

12.35 Going for Gold (1) (414374)

1.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (38916)

1.30 Regional News (CeeFax) (381848)

1.40 Neighbours (CeeFax) (1) (56852461)

2.00 FILM: Nani, the Killer Whale (1966)

With Robert Lansing, John Anderson and Lea Metherell. A killer whale captures the hearts of a community Directed by Laslo Benedek (15225)

3.30 Playdays (1) (1) (2171393) 3.50 The Silver Brumby (1) (2191157) 4.10 Dennis the Menace (CeeFax) (1) (5440754) 4.35 Out of Tune (CeeFax) (1) (5440754) 5.00 News and weather (7829770) 5.10 Act-5 (CeeFax) (1) (5778577)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (CeeFax) (1) (572312)

5.50 News (CeeFax) and weather (367)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (119)

7.00 2004 Children: Bill and Ben promise David that they will both be present at his drama class (1) (CeeFax) (1) (58353)

7.30 EastEnders: Everyone shares Pauline's happiness. Everyone, that is except Grant (CeeFax) (1) (513)

8.00 Wildlife on One: The rat is extremely resourceful as it can run as fast as Linford Christie, is able to leap up to three metres and walk the high-wire in order to get to a food supply (CeeFax) (1) (7683)

8.30 Funny World: The Funny World of Law and Order. Comic clips introduced by Barbara Windsor (CeeFax) (1) (5190)

9.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (7428)

9.30 Flying Soldiers: (2/5) The would-be helicopter pilots embark on the gruelling "Survival Week" (CeeFax) (1) (73461)

WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out 10.00 Flying Soldiers 10.30 Cardiff Arrest 11.00 FILM: Firefox 1.15 FILM: The Big Steel 2.25 News and weather

10.00 Cardiff Arrest: Dr James Mortimer is accused of assaulting a young male patient (CeeFax) (1) (20683) 11.10 Room for Improvement 10.00 Cardiff Arrest 11.00 FILM: The 1.15 Weather (CeeFax) (1) (4835770)

12.45 FILM: The Big Steel (1949, b/w) starring Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer and William Bendix. An army officer framed for a payroll robbery attempts to prove his innocence by catching the real culprit. Directed by Don Siegel (2551435)

1.55am Weather (3601455)

6.00am Open University: From Snowdon to the Sea (7784312) 6.25 Breathing Deeply (7770119) 6.30 Geology of the Alps (5796312)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4184480)

7.30 Oakie Dokie (1) (1) (3350916) 7.40 Peter Pan (1) (CeeFax) (1) (4328461) 8.05 Smurfs (7841157) 8.30 The Fang (1) (15480) 9.00 Mighty Max (1) (4057393) 9.20 Act-5 (1) (CeeFax) (1) (710054) 9.45 SuperTed (1) (3196751) 9.55 Spot (1) (2751238) 10.00 Playdays (1) (1) (2767515) 10.25 Star Trek (1) (637064) 10.50 The Tick (1) (1) (1034916)

11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (1) (4671409)

12.00 Sea Heart (1) (1) (27556) 12.30pm Working Lunch (558677) 1.00 Oakie Dokie (1) (40052683)

1.10 The Season, Chelsea Flower Show (1) (31826683) 1.40 Fire from Heaven: An exorcist's life (39100596)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (1) (7666732) 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (7456848)

3.05 The Natural World: Snowdonia's ravens (1) (CeeFax) (1) (9038157)

3.55 News (5590022) 4.00 Today's the Day (1) (732) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (916) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (CeeFax) (1) (4095515)

5.40 The Ladies of the House: Glenda Jackson MP (401409)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1) (500732) 6.25 Heartbreak High (CeeFax) (1) (849022)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (CeeFax) (1) (504954)

7.30 Public Property. A series about the history of architecture as a leading exponent of 1930s Modernism, typified by its penguin pool for London Zoo and the Highpoint One apartments on Highgate Hill. But at the start of the Second World War he left London for a remote village in Gloucestershire, became a farmer and was little heard of again. He was an enigmatic figure, even to his own children. They never heard him speak of his family, which apparently came from Russia, and assumed his name was not his own. In a poignant film as much about the man as the architect, Leslie Kohn goes in search of her father's past. The trail takes her to a cousin in Brooklyn and a surprising revelation about why Lubetkin was anxious to conceal his past.

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Value of
Oasis
stake
soars

BY JASON NISSE

MARK and Christina Bunce, the husband and wife team who run Country Casuals, the womenswear retailer, paid the company £122,000 for a stake in a rival which is now worth £12.9 million.

This was part of a deal struck prior to the flotation of Country Casuals four years ago when a 50.1 per cent stake in Oasis Stores was sold to the Bunces, fellow director John Shannon and a group of institutions for £900,000.

The stake is now worth in excess of £110 million. Country Casuals itself has a market value of only £33.5 million.

The transaction has its roots in the controversial purchase of Oasis out of receivership in January 1991 — a deal backed by Country Casuals.

The deal, led by Michael and Maurice Bennett who now run Oasis, is the subject of a legal action launched last week by Graham and Edwina Brown, the founders of Oasis. They are claiming that the deal should be unwound and they should be able to buy the company back for just £1.5 million.

When Country Casuals floated on the stock market in June 1992, the advisers to the float — Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, NatWest Markets and Ashurst Morris Crisp, the law firm — decided that the stake should be sold. This was because Oasis did not have a long enough trading record to be floated itself.

The management and shareholders agreed to buy it, but paid just £900,000 for a controlling stake in a company which had just posted pre-tax profits of £1.1 million.

Mark Bunce, Country Casuals' chairman, refused to say how the valuation was reached. "He says it was our business and our decision at that time," said a spokeswoman.

Another beneficiary was John Shannon, the former chief executive who left Country Casuals in 1994 and last year failed in a £26.8 million bid for the group.

He bought a stake in Oasis for £183,266 which he later sold in two disposals, netting in the region of £8.5 million. If he had held that stake, it would now be worth in excess of £18 million.



Christina Bunce checks her reflection in a mirror held by John Shannon, left, then a colleague at Country Casuals, and Mark Bunce

UK will miss education
target, say state advisers

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN will fail to hit "challenging" targets for higher educational standards — seen as vital for business and economic competitiveness, according to a study to be published this week by the Government's principal advisory body on training.

However, the report places Britain third behind the US and Japan on one key measure of training and may suggest that the UK is seeing the fastest growth in the attainment of performance standards, beating competitor economies.

The Government's National

Advisory Council for Education and Training Targets (Nacett), in a study to be published on Thursday, says that for more than a decade there has been concern that the UK has been disadvantaged economically because of the low skill levels of its workforce.

In an attempt to bridge this economic gap, Nacett, on behalf of the Government, set a lifetime learning target of 30 per cent of the UK's workforce having, by the year 2000, a vocational, professional, management or academic qualification at National Vocational Qualification Level 4 — university degree level.

However, the study, which was carried out for Nacett by Sussex University's Institute

for Employment Studies (IES), says that this "challenging" target is, on current trends, "unlikely to be met by the year 2000", and in fact "is only likely to be reached several years into the next century".

After examining the performance of a range of comparator economies, including the US, Japan and Germany — all of which will feature in a government White Paper due to be published on June 13 — the Nacett findings, which are also expected to figure prominently in the Government's new competitiveness statement, suggest that, if Britain is to match the best countries, the target must be raised still further.

The report counters any gloom about training achieve-

ments by ranking Britain third behind the US and Japan when measuring the proportion of the workforce qualified to NVQ Level 4 and above. Britain was third, at 23.4 per cent, behind the US at 30 per cent and Japan at 28.1 per cent, but ahead of Germany, at 20.9 per cent, Taiwan, at 19.6 per cent, and France, at 19.2 per cent.

Detailed figures suggest that male training may be damaging Britain's international performance at this level. Looking at NVQ Level 4 men, Britain ranks fourth, behind Germany. But examining NVQ Level 4 women, Britain maintains its third place.

Britain is seeing the fastest growth in such highly quali-

fied people, the study shows, with the number of NVQ Level 4 people rising in the UK between 1990 and 1994 by 6.6 per cent. In Korea, figures seen as comparable by the IES, indicate a growth of 4.1 per cent, and, in Japan, the figure is only 1.5 per cent — though the institute points out that the UK's growth figures may be exaggerated by what may be inaccurate UK figures for 1990.

Nacett sees both Britain's overall ranking and its rate of improvement as a significant boost to Britain's education and training performance, and the figures are likely to be cited by ministers as clear evidence of the success of Britain's economic, education and training policies.

Staff pay £1m
for British
Gas service
business

BY MIKE PURDIE

MORE than 200 former British Gas service engineers today become owners of their own company.

They are paying British Gas £1.1 million for the 35,000 existing industrial and commercial contracts and operational assets. Trading as GasForce, they expect to reduce overheads "significantly" and win new business through high levels of service and new technology systems.

The buyout, led by Jack Fallow, 47, a British Gas regional director, involves 214 engineers and administrative assistants. They are paying for the right to assume the company's existing contracts in cash. Technicians, who until their redundancy earned £20,000 a year, will contribute about £6,500 for their shareholding and have an equal voting share.

GasForce is free from the old British Gas regional structure and can pursue national contracts. It has area offices in Newport, Ilford, Leeds and Sevenoaks, with a head office at Chorley, Lancashire.

Mr Fallow said: "We saw an opportunity to create a national business. British Gas wanted to focus on its core domestic service business, and no one wanted to let the skills of our workforce just wither. Initial soundings with our customers indicated an enthusiasm for employee-owned businesses."

Under a scheme developed by Graeme Guthrie, a solicitor with Francis & Co in Newport, Gwent, £2,000 of the cash will be an employee share ownership plan loan aimed at using corporation tax breaks available under the 1989 Finance Act. The directors, including Mr Fallow, will have the same share stake as other employees.

The only non-British Gas investor is Paul Hurst, who joins as finance director. Mr Hurst has extensive private sector experience, latterly with American-owned SBC Cable Comms. Apart from Mr Fallow, who will be chairman of GasForce, all the directors started "on the tools" and have extensive knowledge of the industrial gas business.

Mr Fallow cut his manage-

ment teeth at the Ravenscraig steelworks and was involved in the radical restructuring of regional operations of British Gas after privatisation.

As an operations director with the service arm of British Gas, he was given the task of disposing of the company's industrial and commercial business, which turns over £1 million of contracts annually. After auditing the existing business, he declared an interest and worked with a regional team to buy the contracts.

Retailing
mini-boom
forecast

BY CLARE STEWART

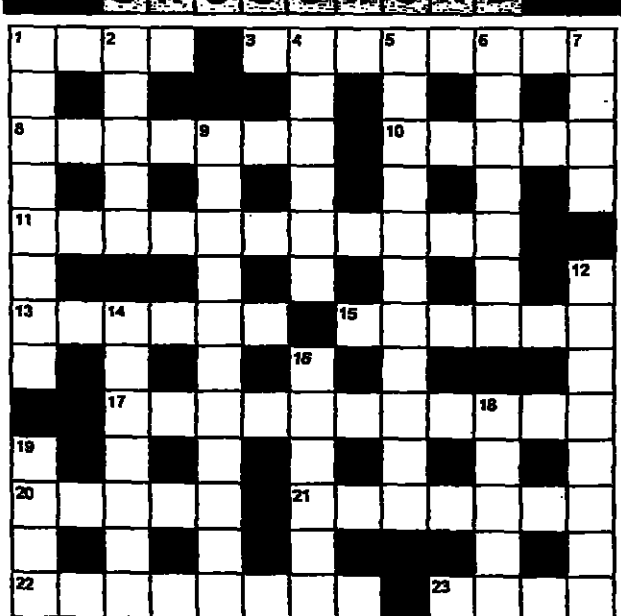
RETAILERS can look forward to a mini-boom over the next three years as consumer spending recovers, a new report says.

Retail Demand 2000, published today by Verdict Research, forecasts that the next five years will see "the best retail trading climate since the late 1980s", although the upturn will not be on the same scale. "This will not be a credit-driven boom," Verdict says.

The value of retail spending is forecast to rise by 25.3 per cent, to £201 billion, between now and 2000. The strongest rises will be seen from 1996 to 1998, with a "less buoyant trading climate in 1999 and 2000", Verdict says.

The return of the "feel-good" factor, Verdict says, "will be underpinned by falling unemployment and interest rates" and gains from Tessa and building society flotations. These factors will "lead to a sustained recovery in the housing market", it says.

Leading the way in a sunnier retail market will be sellers of electrical goods. They, says Verdict, will be the strongest performers over the next five years.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 793

ACROSS

- 1 Hazard (4)
3 Of the clergy; of paperwork (8)
8 Mortification (7)
10 Navigator; experimental programme (5)
11 Merry-making; Somerset Maugham novel (5,3,3)
13 Cause to have affection (6)
15 Pounding implement (6)
17 Naughty (11)
20 Rage (5)
21 Caribbean island, cap. St John's (7)
22 Dislodge (rider from horse) (8)
23 Formerly (4)

DOWN

- 1 Rebound of bullet (8)
2 Boat; hard drug; taste (5)
4 Protective inner layer (6)
5 Substitute (11)
6 Underground water channel (7)
7 Wood strip supporting plaster (4)
9 Take confidence (that) (4,7)
12 Convince (8)
14 Compensation award (7)
16 Slave, slavery (literary) (6)
18 Instrument; functional unit (5)
19 Indian clerk; Hindu title (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 792

ACROSS: 1 Switched on 9 Opinion 10 Lovat 11 Cake 12 Brasilia 14 Marvel 15 Lapped 18 Applique 20 Polo 22 Adult 23 Distant 24 Table d'hôte

DOWN: 2 Whim 3 Tenure 4 Hold sway 5 Devil 6 Nuts and bolts 7 Non-combatant 8 Bicker 13 Belittle 16 Phobia 17 Purdah 19 Plumb 21 Fast

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Southern Water
plays off suitors

BY ERIC REGULY

SOUTHERN WATER was yesterday playing Southern Electric against ScottishPower to try to determine which of the two would pay the most for the regional water company.

ScottishPower, which has proposed buying Southern Water for £13 billion, against a current market value of £1 billion, has told the water company that it would be willing to increase its bid to secure an agreed deal. However, the new figure, which is thought to be at least £9 a share, may not be enough to knock Southern Electric out of the running.

Southern Water is expected to announce this morning either that it continues to negotiate with both companies or that it has struck a deal with one of them. The betting last night was on the former.

Southern Electric appears to have the edge. Southern Water, chaired by William Courtney, considers Southern Electric a good fit because their franchises overlap, giving them



Courtney: statement due

ample scope for cost cutting. Southern Electric, however, is half the size of ScottishPower and might need a rights issue of, say, £500 million to fund a takeover. It would then have to gamble that National Power, an 8 per cent stakeholder, would subscribe to the issue. National Power acquired the stake when trying to buy Southern Electric in a deal blocked by ministers. Its aim is to sell its stake at a profit.

Advisers
build lottery
fortunes

BY JON ASHWORTH

PROFESSIONAL advisers are cashing in on the National Lottery. Architects, contractors, and financial advisers stand to earn £800 million or more in fees from lottery-assisted projects worth more than £4 billion. London's £170 million South Bank redevelopment, and the £120 million Lowry Centre in Salford, are among show-stopper schemes that owe their existence to lottery funds.

Sir Richard Rogers, the architect behind the Pompidou centre in Paris, and the controversial Lloyd's of London headquarters, joins Sir Norman Foster and other luminaries in chasing schemes fuelled by lottery money. Fees on the Royal Opera House redevelopment are estimated at £24 million. A proposed £7 million theatre in Milton Keynes was encouraged to scale up to a £28.8 million complex.

Lottery millionaires, page 38

Hungary for expansion

BY MARTIN WALLER

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear generator now on the privatisation slipway for launch this summer, is considering its first overseas acquisition, a share in a nuclear power station in Hungary.

Alan Nickalls, British Energy's director of international sales and marketing, confirmed the company's interest in a possible part-ownership of the 1,700MW Paks power station, close to the Danube and south west of Budapest.

He said: "Clearly we're interested in nuclear power

stations in general. The Hungarians are thinking of privatising. We've been keeping a watching brief for as long as they have been talking about it, for the last six months."

The Hungarian Government is in the process of selling off the country's electricity industry. An earlier attempt to dispose of the Paks power station foundered.

British Energy is already advising in the Czech Republic and the Ukraine. Paks has the advantage of being the

only nuclear station now up for sale in the former Comecon countries. It is also among the safest, with an essentially untroubled operating history.

British Energy, which does not expect to build any further nuclear power stations in this country in the foreseeable future, is pinning its hopes on growth overseas. The pathfinder prospectus for the flotation is due out soon, with first dealings in mid-July.

Privatisation launch, page 37

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VISUAL ART 1

Bruce Nauman's *Human Nature/ Knows Doesn't Know* reveals the impressive talent of a versatile artist

VISUAL ART 2

... while Gerhard Richter's *Folding Dryer* is another highlight of the Froehlich show at the Tate

THE TIMES ARTS

VISUAL ART 3

The crisp, decisive draughtsmanship of Renato Guttuso is showcased in a retrospective at the Whitechapel

TOMORROW

Looking for a cinematic style to call his own: Robert Lepage takes his first shot at directing a film

Richard Cork on the Tate's exhibition of works from a superb contemporary private collection; plus other shows

The Froehlich way to be serious

Wearing his trademark fedora like a Chicago gangster, Joseph Beuys gazes out with phosphorescent eyes from the catalogue cover of the Tate's latest exhibition. His place of honour reflects the decisive part he played in the genesis of the Froehlich Foundation, an outstanding collection of contemporary art now partially on view at Millbank.

Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, should be congratulated for establishing such a fruitful relationship with Josef and Anna Froehlich, who live in Stuttgart and continually add to the 320 works already in their possession. Over the next three years the full richness of their holdings will be disclosed in successive shows at the Tate. And, when the Tate's Gallery of Modern Art opens at Bankside in 2000, the Froehlich Foundation will place a group of major works on long-term loan there.

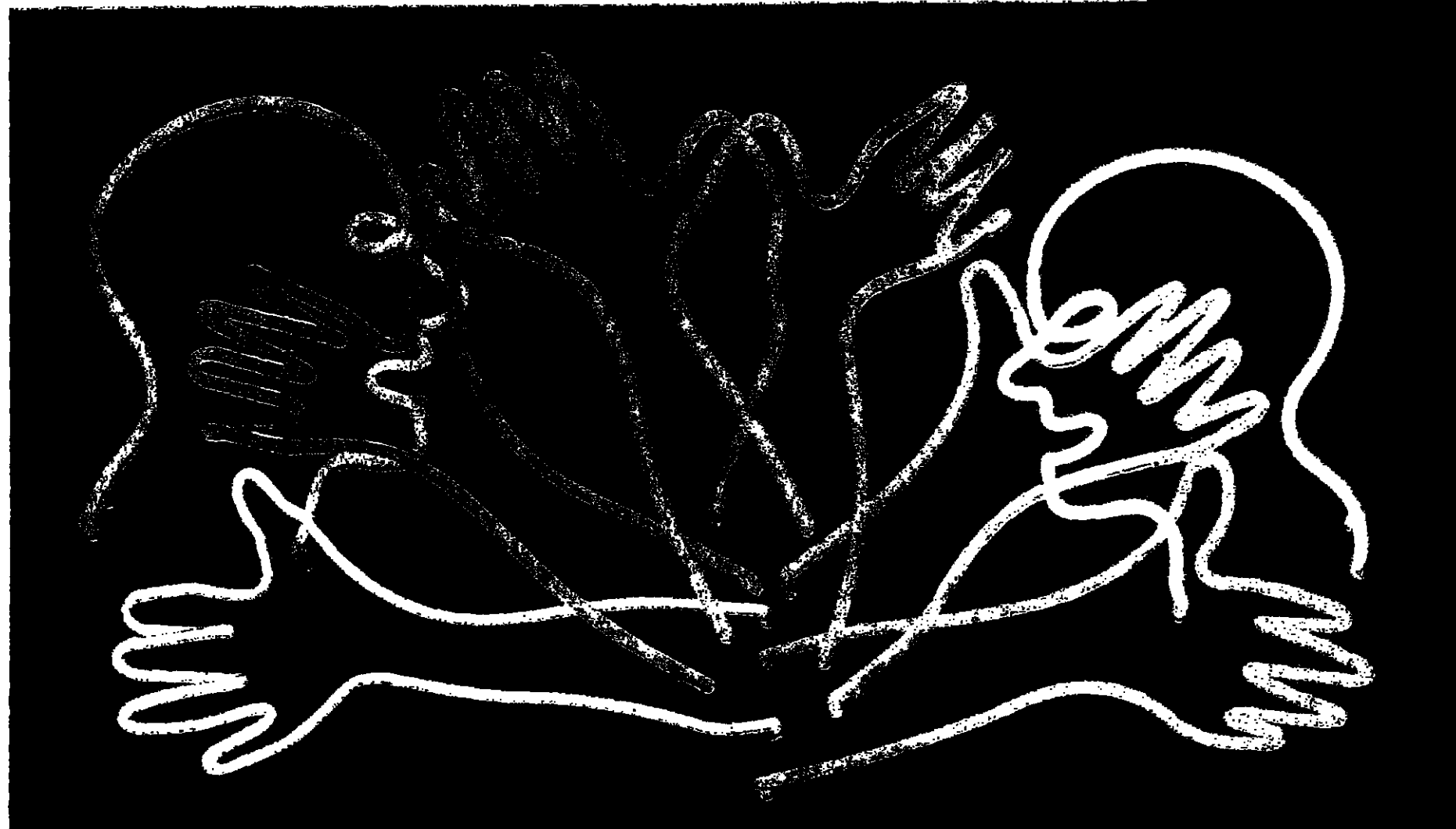
Serota's coup is especially welcome in Britain, where significant contemporary collections are so rare. Magnificent old master collections still exist in private houses throughout the land, but they contrast very sadly with the timid British reluctance to lavish similar largesse on the art of today.

Until 1982, when the 47-year-old Froehlich suddenly became fired by the collecting urge, he had no serious interest in art. Perhaps all his energy had been consumed in proving himself as a businessman. His Hungarian-born wife Anna once bought a painting with her first month's salary, but neither she nor her husband thought of themselves as collectors when they visited the 1982 Documenta exhibition at Kassel.

Quite by chance, Froehlich noticed a small yet hypnotic work by Beuys, set into a wall protected by strong glass. Called *Friedenshasse*, this cave-like space housed the outcome of a dramatic metamorphosis. Bejewelled fragments from a replica of Ivan the Terrible's crown had been transformed into a golden hare, and Froehlich was mesmerised. He remembers saying to his wife: "This is what I want."

He and Beuys met, and their relationship must have been instrumental in persuading Froehlich to pursue his newfound collecting impulse. Eventually, an impressive range of the artist's work entered Froehlich's collection, and he also began acquiring important pieces by other, younger German artists.

Some of the most outstanding paintings are by Gerhard Richter, whose career began in the early 1960s with a movement called Capitalist Realism. Superficially, his canvases of that period resemble Warhol's Pop exploration of raw



Bruce Nauman's neon-and-tube *Double Slap in the Face* (1985), one of the highlights of the Tate's scintillating exhibition of works from the Froehlich Foundation collection

photographic images, culled from tabloid newspapers with no attempt to disguise their origins. But Richter already reveals himself as a more refined painter than Warhol. Although fragments of advertising copy are retained in Richter's *Folding Dryer* of 1962, the housewife standing next to the appliance is delicately brushed in. And however ominous the military jets may appear in his *Phantom Interceptors* two years later, their blurred forms are defined with consummate skill.

Richter is more of a virtuoso than Warhol, and a painter with a far wider range. At one moment, he restricts himself to the severe minimalism of *Two Greys Exposed*. Then, in 1968, he produces an aerial view of Paris with free, juicy, loaded brushstrokes. Richter is keenly conscious of the European tradition, painting a serene 17th-century *Sea Piece* which pays open homage to the melancholy immensity of Caspar David Friedrich's *Monk by the Sea*. But he is also capable of fiery, rhapsodic abstraction, exem-

plified here in a scraped yet sumptuous orchestration of scarlet, yellow and blue.

Sigmar Polke, Richter's unpredictable contemporary, is represented by some equally outstanding works. More playful than Richter, he enjoys satirising the pretensions of abstract artists in an austere monochrome painting inscribed with the words "Higher Powers Command: Paint the Right Hand Corner Black!" As fascinated as Richter by popular imagery, Polke had no hesitation filling one of his early canvases with archetypal teutonic sausages suspended in space. But he outstrips Richter in his willingness to break all the pictorial rules, painting straight on to printed floral fabric in *5 Dots* and then, in a delirious image called *Safekneipung*, using safety pins, a razor blade, a button and a sweet. Polke is the least inhibited of contemporary painters, and Froehlich has concentrated on acquiring work produced in his most irreverent period. But a group of works by the lesser-known Ger-

man Blinky Palermo proves that Froehlich is just as capable of admiring abstraction at its most taut and disciplined.

The tension between exuberance and severity in this remarkable collection becomes clearer still when we turn to its American works. Like many Germans of his generation, Froehlich grew up fantasising about America. He worked for a while as a design engineer in Detroit, and has never lost his enthusiastic involvement with American culture, making sure that a choice representation of Warhol's work is a central strength of the collection.

Warhol's work will be shown in a later instalment, but three major American sculptors are included in the first show. The most sparing is Carl Andre, whose three exhibits are well supplemented by the Tate's own examples of his work. Stripped of anything that might interfere with their Shaker-like emphasis on essential form, they constitute the bare bones of modern sculpture.

Richard Artschwager shares

Andre's partiality for spartan, angular objects. But he is prepared to stray a long way from Andre's purist preoccupation with wood, steel and aluminium. Arschwager is not afraid to produce a handle form in mottled Formica. Nor does he shy away from making his sculpture resemble furniture, most blatantly in the strangely conjoined *Chair/Chair*. But at least its hardness seems to defy use, whereas *Tower III (Confessional)* really does look as if it has been removed from a Catholic church and left, stranded, in the echoing vastness of the Duveen Gallery.

The most impressive of the Americans, though, is Bruce Nauman. Still little-known in Britain, he threw off an abundance of ideas in the 1960s which now look astonishingly prophetic of today's art. His *Shelf Sinking into the Wall with Copper-Painted Plaster Casts of the Spaces Underneath*, made in 1966, predates Rachel Whiteread's concerns by 20 years. But this sculpture looks informal and almost eccentric

compared with her work, and humour darts like a dangerous current through all his subsequent activities.

Restlessness and versatility are the hallmarks of Nauman's ever-questioning output. Fascinated by the array of possibilities now available to artists who like roaming from one medium to the next, he is as impressive in neon-tubing and video as in more traditional sculptural materials.

Humour is never far away. The violence of his neon *Double Slap in the Face* borders, after a while, on farce. Nauman refuses to be pinned down, especially in the neon works which indulge in word-play. *Run from Fear*, *Fun from Fear*, a glowing yellow-pink work from 1972, seems high-spirited at first. But viewed with hindsight, from the AIDS-haunted perspective of today, it looks more like an elegy than a celebration.

● The Froehlich Foundation at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171 837 8000) until Sept 8

A force whose time has gone

John Russell Taylor on a Renato Guttuso retrospective

Artists who have once been extremely fashionable, and have then passed back into oblivion, pose a rather special problem. Recently we observed the situation with Basquiat at the Serpentine: the time elapsed between his tremendous fame

as a real, natural graffiti artist, his subsequent eclipse and early death, and the current revival of interest has been no more than 15 years. With Renato Guttuso, a retrospec-

tive of whose painting is now on show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, the whole process has been much slower, and therefore much more difficult to come to terms with.

To begin with, Guttuso was no overnight sensation. He was born in Sicily in 1911, went to law school in Palermo, but then decided to devote himself to art. He settled permanently in Rome in 1937, and became for all practical purposes a member of the Scuola Romana, mixing basic realism with touches of symbolism and an occasional echo of surrealism. All of this in decent obscurity, as he gradually found his own voice.

His first immediately recognisable painting was the

Crucifixion of 1940-41, a large and ambitious canvas which suggested a modern and possibly political reinterpretation of the familiar subject without overtly stating anything.

His real fame came immediately after the war. By this time Guttuso's work was strongly political, and got noticed internationally. His first important showing in London, at the Hanover Gallery in 1950, caused a sensation.

Undoubtedly the reasons for this were importantly bound up with politics. Guttuso was famed as a fiercely devoted Communist and, as it was a time when the hard Left seemed to offer convincing solutions, he became a popu-

lar hero in a way which can hardly be conceived of now.

Artistically it was also his time: his crisp, decisive draughtsmanship was much admired by critics, and was influential on such painters as John Minton and Peter de Francia, while Kitchen Sink artists saw him as a kindred spirit.

Guttuso was violently opposed to abstraction, which he regarded as irrational and irrelevant. It was perhaps inevitable that with the invasion of Abstract Expressionism in the late 1950s he should fall from favour and, even worse, from notice. While he remained very successful in Italy, in Britain he was virtually forgotten.

When, in 1979, he had a London show again, many were not quite sure who he was, and those who did remember hardly recognised the activist of yore in his splashy, rather crudely coloured landscapes and nudes. The very small number of works in this retrospective from after 1970 tells its own story.

So, does he look again like a major figure? Yes and no. Clearly, for a brief while he was a major force in British painting. But we are only just now coming to re-evaluate our own working-class realists of the 1950s. Certainly Guttuso's major political statements, from *Massacre* (1943) to *The Discussion* (1959-60), still come over with force and vigour, but the later nudes,



Renato Guttuso's "decisive draughtsmanship": detail from *Corner of the Studio in via Pompeo Magno* (1941-42)

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How to treat an ear infection

Important drum roles

THE TRIP that Sarah Bradford made to America to publicise her biography of the Queen would have been arduous even without the problem of suffering from acute otitis media, an infection of the middle ear. Ms Bradford recounted her story in *The Times Magazine* last Saturday.

It seems that as she flew from one appointment to another the infection spread and the changes in pressure

testinal symptoms including nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Ms Bradford's first doctor in America failed to do more than ease the situation for a few hours. His prescription of heavy doses of antibiotics and, for some reason, systemic steroids, was derided by those who treated her later. Her next doctor — by then Ms Bradford had flown on to another city — insisted that a minor operation, myringotomy, was necessary.



DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Myringotomy consists of making a tiny incision in the drum so that the pus behind it can escape. Once the pressure is released pain is dramatically relieved. In fact, neither doctor was wrong. In the early stages of otitis media antibiotics may be all that is necessary. However, if the doctor notices that the drum is bulging forwards because the pus behind it is stretching it, that hearing is lost and that the pain is unbearable, he may well decide on a myringotomy. The pus collected from the ear is then cultured to ensure that the appropriate antibiotics can be prescribed and the bacteria killed.

Before flying it is always wise to clear up a throat infection. Once the otitis media has developed, further flying should be postponed.

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Before flying it is always wise to clear up a throat infection. Once the otitis media has developed, further flying should be postponed.

Love I threw away in the killing fields of Indo-China

I shut the door on the war in Vietnam and Cambodia two decades ago. But just sometimes I get the urge to reopen it, to recapture once again those days in Indo-China, so potent are their spell. And all of a sudden, memories come crowding. The streets of London fade; it is the River of Perfumes in Hue in 1972 and I am in my early twenties, covering my first war and in love with a beautiful French-Vietnamese girl.



Jon Swain reflects on the consequences of a choice that the war in Vietnam and Cambodia forced him to make

Indo-China was death-haunted, a place in disintegration and decay. It was also a place of intoxicating beauty. I can unashamedly say that I was happy in the five tragic years I lived there — largely because I was in love in the middle of a war.

In 1970, in Cambodia, I met Jacqueline in poignant circumstances. I was working for Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, in Phnom Penh. She had come to collect the belongings of her missing boyfriend, a French war photographer, one of many whom we now know were captured and killed by the Khmer Rouge in the early weeks of fighting. Forced into silence by her sadness and beauty, I never even said *au revoir* as she picked up his things and left. But I felt a silent complicity and was sure I would see her again.

A while later we met unexpectedly in Saigon, and so began a love affair that sustained me for the rest of my time in Indo-China. Jacqueline belonged to a fated generation. She had never known Vietnam without war. It was there when she was born, it was there as she grew up. For all she knew, it would be there when she died. Yet one of the things about her that beguiled me was that she still managed to keep the optimism of a girl who had never been disillusioned, even though those times were overshadowed by bloodshed and the tragedy of her boyfriend's disappearance. She could not conceive of life anywhere else but Indo-China.

The Indo-China that I and

other correspondents knew was filled with the raw reality of war — moonlight looking down on the open eyes of the dead, stacked around the wire perimeter of a lonely Central Highlands firebase; the tremor of the shelling; the bloody experiences of the fall of Phnom Penh to the brutal Khmer Rouge in 1975; the subdued murmur of the wounded; their accusing eyes.

But Jacqueline showed me her Indo-China. And by her very presence, she brought its landscape alive for me. One afternoon we took a small sampans from Hue up the River of Perfumes to visit one of the emperors' tombs.

We were fugitives from the war. The North Vietnamese had crossed the demarcation line at the 17th parallel and fought their way to within a few miles of the northern gates of the ancient imperial capital. Refugees were streaming out, the mood was sinister and dangerous. But we were a few miles away, gliding upriver through a beautiful valley of green-carpeted rice fields rimmed by distant peaks.

When we arrived, we sat for a while, lulled by the ageless serenity of the tomb. It was a world of quiet spirituality, the silence so complete that we felt we were in the presence of the infinite. I remember we were happy with a total happiness that needs no words. Later, as



The tranquil Vietnam that lay behind the lines

we glided downriver at sunset, the water shimmered like bronze in the sun, farmers drove their buffalo home through darkening fields and, as the shadows lengthened and the gaunt mountains turned blue, we quite forgot the war.

So it used to be — the triumph of beauty over war. But the contradictory demands of journalism got in the way. In April 1975, I flew back into Cambodia on the last plane to cover the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge, leaving Jacqueline behind, alone, in Saigon. So I was not there two weeks later when the city — her city — was swallowed up in the communist victory. It was an act of desertion, and the sadness of that departure remains sharp with me today. Since then I

have been swept along by other wars, other places, other loves. But in Indo-China at that time lie things that will never perish. The place gave all of us who worked there so much; it was there that many of us came of age.

Jacqueline, too, finally left her beloved Saigon when the Communists took over two decades ago and shut the door. Her destiny lay elsewhere. We correspond still today; on occasions we meet and, such was the intensity of that emotional experience, it seems like yesterday.

We listen to each other with rapt attention. The thread that links us has not snapped. But I know that she will forever wonder how I managed so adroitly to throw away so much love. She trusted me with herself and I abandoned her, at the darkest moment of her life.

How I wish, too, for her sake, that Jacqueline's flight from Saigon had not been necessary. Indo-China was a place which encouraged extraordinary dreams and without it, in a way, none of us have anything. Its wars are now over and it is hopefully on the threshold of a new era of regeneration and rebirth. But we are all prisoners of that heavenly land, condemned to solitude without it. Today, I know that every time Jacqueline gazes at the sea, in the country where she leads a new life, she thinks of the sea in Vietnam, splashed with patches of quicksilver; every time she is warmed by the sun, she thinks of the sun in Vietnam. The light of those years is never extinguished.

Jon Swain's memoir of his time as a foreign correspondent in Vietnam and Cambodia, *River of Time*, is published by Minerva, £6.99.



Amid all the horror and fear, Jacqueline's beauty captivated a young correspondent

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Hogging the spoils and letters from the lottery losers

How do you deal with the moral dilemma of heartrending begging letters when you have become a multi-millionaire overnight? Giles Coren and Grace Bradberry report

There is more to making a millionaire than just selling someone a lottery ticket, and Camelot has triumphed in instituting a ritual. A ritual that begins for millions in a queue at the local newsagent, and ends, for only very few, with the uncorking of champagne at grimly orchestrated press conferences.

Assorted semi-celebrities are wheeled on to grin for the cameras, the winners talk about all the things they will buy, and then take off for a Caribbean island with 20 friends.

But there is a darker side, something Camelot is careful not to mention at these displays. Instead, the winners are taken aside, and instructed in the Camelot way to deal with riches. "The money is yours," they are told repeatedly. It is not to be given away lightly. Yet with vast wealth comes moral responsibility. And dealing with begging letters is perhaps the first moral dilemma for the newly wealthy.

Or was. Until Camelot decided to warn winners not to take them at face value and not to feel compelled to give. Ask Camelot, and they will tell you that winners receive very few begging letters. But ask Michael Antonucci, and you will hear that since he won a jackpot share of £2.8 million last July, he has received more than he can possibly count.

Many are bizarre, such as the one from a man begging funding for the electric walking shoes he had invented. Many are unscrupulous, like the one from an Australian businessman offering full repayment with 50 per cent interest within six months. Some are quite possibly hoaxes. And others are terrible moving stories of human distress.

Like the one from a 49-year-old woman who needed at least £12,500 to pay her mortgage arrears, and her son's university fees. Her husband had been made redundant two years before, she had had to give up her job as a nurse after an unsuccessful gallbladder operation, and was about to face a final court hearing that might see the family home repossessed.

Dear Michael I have wanted to write to you for weeks but kept putting it off. Thinking something would happen to improve the situation, it's getting worse. It's become an absolute nightmare.

It's with a lot of embarrassment and a lot of humiliation that I have to ask you, please will you help us, we have never asked or received anything all our lives but now it's a question of asking or risk losing everything we have worked so hard for... we are facing ruin.

We have nobody at all we can turn to for help. You find yourself unable to sleep or eat for the horrendous worry of it all... I would rather be dead than go on like this... It's bitterly cold here. We have oil central heating but... haven't been able to pay the last bill...

[Our son] has worked so hard... they say without payment he will not be able to graduate. Would you please help us?

My husband is 59 years old. We have both worked so hard all our lives... He looks so very ill. The financial worry is killing him. I worry myself sick thinking what he is going to do. Human beings can only stand so much... Please don't let that happen to us. I cannot take much more...

Mr Antonucci's sister, Maria Wood, who deals with all his correspondence, knows exactly how she feels. For she too has known the threat of dispossession. "When Michael won his business was about to go bankrupt," she says. "And I, myself, was in negative equity and in danger of losing my home. We have had so many letters and I do know how they are feeling. I was put out of my livelihood a few years ago, but we did manage, after I learnt to do spread sheets and did an awful lot of juggling with money. At one stage we were living on credit cards. I didn't resort to doing this, but I can appreciate how people weaker than myself might end up doing so."

While Ms Wood replies to the letters, she does not send money. "One reason is simply that we can't tell who is genuine and who isn't. It would be an enormous task to look into every request. And you have to remember that these people might only ask for a couple of hundred pounds, but how many other people have they asked as well? You don't know how much they're getting in total."

So there was little hope of financial aid for the elderly Devon lady who owed £50,000 on her home and wrote to Mr Antonucci after seeing him in the street before Christmas, and feeling too ashamed "to

'I file all the letters in the waste bin. I can't solve all the world's problems with £2.7 million'

say good afternoon". She needed £13,000 immediately to pay the arrears and wrote in despairing tones, even offering to work off the debt herself.

To Mr M R Antonucci, Please forgive me for writing to you sir... This month sometime they want possession of my property. I have lived here for 16 years. I honestly don't want to be homeless, sir. I have four smashing grandchildren. I am working for a local company. I have enclosed a wage slip, sir.

If by some miracle you could possibly help me the only way I could pay you back would be scrubbing, polishing, and shopping for you for up to ten hours a day until I die sir.

The reason I have got like I am is because my husband lost his job.

Sorry once again to trouble you, and take up your time...

But Ms Woods offers only advice — trained by Camelot to withhold funds. "I've tended to say: 'You're only putting off the inevitable. If Michael did pay the debt now, it would build up again. At the end of the day, the worrying is worse than living in a place you don't particularly like.' I really don't think there was anything else to suggest. These people had already been round the bush and back again, which is why they had written to us."



Golden girl: Anthea Turner, the former lottery hostess

THE REAL LOTTERY WINNERS

Part 1, sec section 2, page 38

For in reversals of fortune, tragically, the pendulum swings both ways. For every millionaire thrust to unearned wealth from the brink of penury, there are a thousand people who have been crushed, from comfort to misery. Desperate and sad, their spirits brought as low as those of the jackpot winners are raised up, they write a last, hopeful plea to the cheeky chappy in the papers, with the big grin and the bottle of champagne.

For most of us, fortunes change at a treacherous pace. That is how we cope with life. But as the hype focuses with never-decreasing strength on the glamorous rags to riches stories of the lottery winners, those who remain in rags are forgotten. They are no less virtuous than the new millionaires, and no less deserving of help.

One can only pity the Dorset woman involved in a nine-year court battle over covenants that prevented her from selling her home. Led to believe she would win £300,000 has already been borrowed for legal fees, and the bank is insisting she sell up. With her letter, she sent a barrister's statement that asserted: "It is no exaggeration to say that if the action is lost the plaintiff will lose her home, her entire life savings and will be financially ruined."

Throwing herself on Michael Antonucci's mercy, she wrote:

Please do not think this letter is just another person asking for a handout... All I am asking for is the right, at my age, to stay in my own home and enjoy the rest of my life without being a burden to society. I had tried to plan for my old age, but... I am now on the verge of losing the battle.

I need help to repay the bank, or else they will be repossessing my home. If you could help with this loan (and again I stress I am not asking for a free handout) I would pay interest on this sum and repay the capital in two years' time...

All I need is a little time to secure my future. You can tell how desperate I am... I would not have fought so long or so hard against all the odds, nor would I ever have dreamt of writing to someone like you asking for help.

If there is a glimmer of hope that you could possibly assist me in any way, please contact me...

But for all her sympathy, Ms Wood cannot help. It is a



Gorged on riches: Camelot winners are advised to hang on to their millions

strange situation. According to Dr Paul Webley, a specialist in the psychology of economic behaviour at Exeter University: "People who come into large sums of money suddenly are, in general, more inclined to give it away than other wealthy people."

"Most of them have a belief in a just world, and feel over-rewarded, so they give some away to make themselves feel more psychologically comfortable. Those who have long been expecting an inheritance, on the other hand, tend to see the money as more specifically theirs."

But the jackpot winners we spoke to bucked this pattern when it came to begging letters.

"I am sure some people would be troubled enough to start firing off cheques," says Shaun Renaud, a £2.7 million winner from Wokingham, Surrey, "but not me. I have put £330,000 into a restaurant, and £250,000 into my home, and now I want to conserve funds. I want to leave plenty behind when I'm gone. Camelot made it very clear that this was my money. Not anybody else's."

"I have had thirty or forty begging letters since the win," he says. "Most of them were sob stories. 'My mother is dying of this or that', and there was one old lady who wrote to say she had arthritis and needed £3,000 for an operation. Well, that isn't my fault, is it? The Government should look after her and not me."

Mr Renaud happily admits that he never replies to the letters, but that he "files them all... in the bin. It doesn't matter how much money I have. I can't solve all the world's problems with £2.7 million. If I had won £50 million I might have given some away. Why don't they write to Richard Branson? He can afford it."

John and Penny Haigh, from Doncaster, won £1.3 million. "We got a very sad letter from the sister of a woman dying of cancer," says Mr Haigh. "She wanted money for treatment. I felt sorry for them, but I do a lot of charity work and give money to charity and that's our way of helping."

"We've also given money to our family. If you answered every letter that could conceivably come through, then you wouldn't have any money left."

The despair of the woman driven to beg

IN her replies to desperate correspondents, Michael Antonucci's sister points out that she cannot know if their stories are true.

The letters certainly sound genuine, but could these people be charlatans?

We decided to call on the author of one of the most moving letters. Norma Cresswell, 54, wrote to Mr Antonucci in February, offering to scrub, polish and shop for him for the rest of her life if he would only pay the £13,000 arrears on her mortgage.

Last week Mrs Cresswell sat amid boxes at her four-bedroom semi-detached home in Devon. She had just received a letter stating that her home would be repossessed at 1pm on June 13.

She says that her problems began 18 months ago when her husband John was made redundant from his job at a construction company. For a while Mrs Cresswell assumed that her husband had redundancy insurance. It was only when a letter arrived from the building society that she discovered that he was three months in arrears.

"I would have tried to pay it out of my salary," she says. "But John didn't tell me he had stopped paying it."

The first court case was in April, 1995. Afterwards they tried to find a solution. John's first wife lived in a £100,000 house which had formed part of the divorce settlement. Norma suggested that they should sell their own house to the ex-wife for just £15,000 — the amount they owed. But the building society did

not see this as a permanent solution and in November John returned to court. By this time, he could show the court a letter offering him a job and he was granted an extension.

At the last minute the job offer fell through, and in February Norma Cresswell decided to write to Mr Antonucci, enclosing her wage slips from a part-time job cleaning buses, and also the letters from the building society.

"I knew it was a desperate thing to do, but I was feeling desperate," she says. "I didn't tell anyone what I'd done, because I know what people think of begging letters."

A month later she received a reply from Mr Antonucci's sister returning the documentation. "It was a very kind letter. She said they had to be wary of people making false

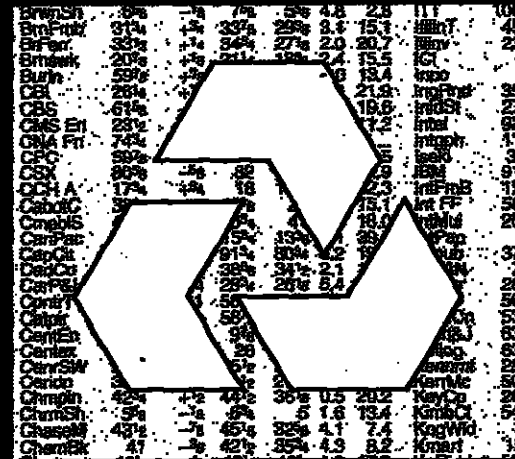
claims. I sent back a thank-you note." In the same month, the first repossession order arrived, but because they had nowhere to go they were allowed to stay longer.

Last month, John was finally able to tell the court that he had a job as a quantity surveyor and was earning almost the same salary as he had 18 months before.

But it was too late for the building society, which insisted that too much time had passed without the debt having been paid.

"We have the money now but no time," says Norma. "We can't rent because we have a poor credit rating. I just don't know where we will end up."

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Labour's chamber of chatterers

Roger Scruton ridicules reforms that would upset the constitution

The House of Lords is an institution which confers power and prestige purely through the accident of birth. How, in a democratic age, can that be defended? The question was posed by Jack Straw, writing on this page recently. And once the question is asked, he assumed, that is the end of the matter. It goes without saying that the House of Lords should be reformed, so as to become more "representative" of the people.

The argument typifies new Labour thinking on the constitution, and is echoed this week by the Tory Reform Group, which now advocates "all-party talks on the future of the House of Lords". If that argument were valid, it would mean that the Head of State should be an elected president, not a hereditary monarch — a reform that Labour hesitates to suggest. There are many things which are hard to defend in a democratic age: traditional morality, self-restraint, social ostracism, old-fashioned manners, formal dress, school uniforms, the doctrine of original sin, Latin grammar, and just about any criticism that could be made of popular culture. When all opinions count for one, regardless of the moral, material or social position of the person who holds them, then nothing at all can be defended except by a show of hands.

A reformed House of Lords would be full of opinionated nuisances

Mr Straw's rhetorical question, far from being a criticism of the hereditary principle, should be read as a criticism of democracy. It is precisely the inability of democracy to champion anything for which the *raison d'être* lies beyond the man in the street that makes it so dangerous. Until circumscribed by institutions which are immune to its corrosive influence, democracy exposes every human value to the tyranny of majority opinion. This is why democracies need constitutions, and why the constitution must rest on something other than democratic choice. Whatever this other thing may be — heredity, custom, the Supreme Court, the tribal elders, an antique document — it will look arbitrary when judged by the standard of democratic election. But that is its point.

Labour's proposals for constitutional reform have been sprung on us at a surprising time. While there have been periods of antagonism towards the House of Lords, it is not one of them. And while the desire for a Bill of Rights has often been voiced, it is no longer a rallying cry in politics, nor a widely adopted badge of disaffection. Besides, we have a Bill of Rights, adopted as law in 1689, and summarising the freedoms embedded in the common law, which Stuart high-handedness and Cromwellian dictatorship had temporarily extinguished. The prominence of these issues in Labour thinking derives less from popular sentiment — which the party has not consulted — than from academic discussion. Constitutional reform is being imposed upon us by the chattering classes, including some who call themselves Conservatives and have not yet noticed that they belong to the wrong party. More specifically, the impetus for reform comes

from those who gathered under the banner of Charter 88 to denounce Margaret Thatcher as the enemy of their kind (which she was).

Charter 88, as it should be called, is very far from representing the people of this country. In fact it represents the grumpy, left-liberal intellectuals, who are seldom content with power in any hands but their own. It is an indication of the desultory nature of political science in this country that Charter 88 should have been taken so seriously. As a result, the argument for reform has shown no regard for the real nature of our constitution.

The continental idea of government sees the constitution as a written document, standing above the legislative process and protecting the citizen through a declaration of rights. From the French Revolution to Nazi Germany, this kind of constitution has shown no ability to constrain the ambitions of tyrants, and no ability to secure stability in times of social upheaval.

The British constitution does not stand above the legislative process but beneath it, concealed by the thing it supports. It does not specify the rights of the citizen, but gives authority to the sovereign power. Rights are safeguarded by the common law, which, because it lies outside the reach of Parliament, and has never been encapsulated in a set of principles, provides a far more reliable guarantee of individual liberty than a piece of paper. It is because our rights are conferred by the law that it has proved so difficult for politicians to cancel them. And it is because our constitution is designed to confer authority on those in power, rather than rights on the rest of us, that it has given such an abiding sense of the legitimacy of parliamentary government. These are the true causes of our political stability.

Dr Thomas Stuttford sees the latest health panic as a product of muddled thinking at the top

If only the ghost of Dr Charles Hill haunted the corridors of Whitehall and had been able to whisper advice in the ears of Douglas Hogg, Stephen Dorrell, the Prime Minister and their predecessors each time there was a health panic, the Government would not have caused so much unnecessary upset to the public and to the medical profession. Now the spirit of Dr Hill is needed again, this time over the trace of phthalates in babies' milk.

During the war, Dr Hill, the radio doctor, secretary of the BMA and later a minister himself, was adept at delivering dire health warnings without alarming the country. Dr Hill was a consummate politician, whose understanding of the government machine was matched by his knowledge of medicine and of people. Nowadays there is nobody with his qualities in authority to reassure us about HIV, BSE, the contraceptive pill, salmonella, listeria or phthalates.

The public confidence in ministerial reassurances was first, and probably permanently, undermined by the Government's handling of HIV. The official view was initially unrealistically optimistic, and this misplaced optimism later cost many lives, including those of hundreds of haemophiliacs who had no option other than to believe ministerial statements that the blood they were regularly given to keep them alive was safe, and that any opinions to the contrary were both mischievous and

unscientific. Politicians had either been misled, or had pretended to misunderstand, the significance of the scientists' statement that there was no evidence that HIV could be spread other than through various homosexual practices, and in particular that there was no evidence that it could be spread by, or even caught by, women, or through blood.

Doctors are now so intellectually oppressed by determination not to give any opinion unless it can be backed up by irrefutable scientific data that they constantly shelter behind the form of words "there is no evidence that". Although technically true, this phrase is apt to confuse both ministers and the public. By the time, for instance, that scientists had gathered evidence demonstrating that HIV was readily spread by blood, it was too late to save a great many lives, or the public's faith in ministerial statements.

The initial ministerial optimism about HIV was followed by a series of strident and rather terrifying government campaigns, which added confi-

sion to the mistrust that people already felt.

Having been caught out once by the phrase "there is no evidence that", as used by scientists and doctors, politicians might have been expected to learn that it should not be used as the basis of a policy; but they did not. When the BSE outbreak started, it was a reasonable assumption, and one made by many doctors, that the likely cause was the spread of a modified scrapie prion to cows. Once again, politicians, supported by their scientific advisers, procrastinated while they took cover behind the statement that there was "no evidence" that the scrapie prion had leapt the species barrier and attacked cows. The scientists didn't even change their line when cats developed a modified spongiform encephalopathy and it became clear that the prion had now spread from ruminants to carnivores.

Faith in the phrase, and the inertia that it induced, has cost Britain's beef industry dear, jeopardised good international relations with the rest

of Europe and almost certainly cost some — one hopes comparatively few — human lives. The Government is now in the second stage of its reaction to crisis, the initial apathy is over and draconian measures are following.

Politicians must learn that the phrase "there is no evidence that" is a latterday equivalent of the Victorian GP's humming and hawing by the bedside while he waits to see what nature will do next. What it means is that the doctor doesn't know, hopes for the best, and meanwhile will continue to investigate.

The relationship between politicians, civil servants and scientists when the public has to be informed is complex. Politicians are birds of passage, whereas the truth in science unfolds slowly. This can lead them into the temptation of procrastinating — for who knows, if they delay, some other minister may have to deal with the problem. Civil servants, meanwhile, still tend to be governed by the concept of need-to-know, which means that in order that they may rule quietly, they release as little

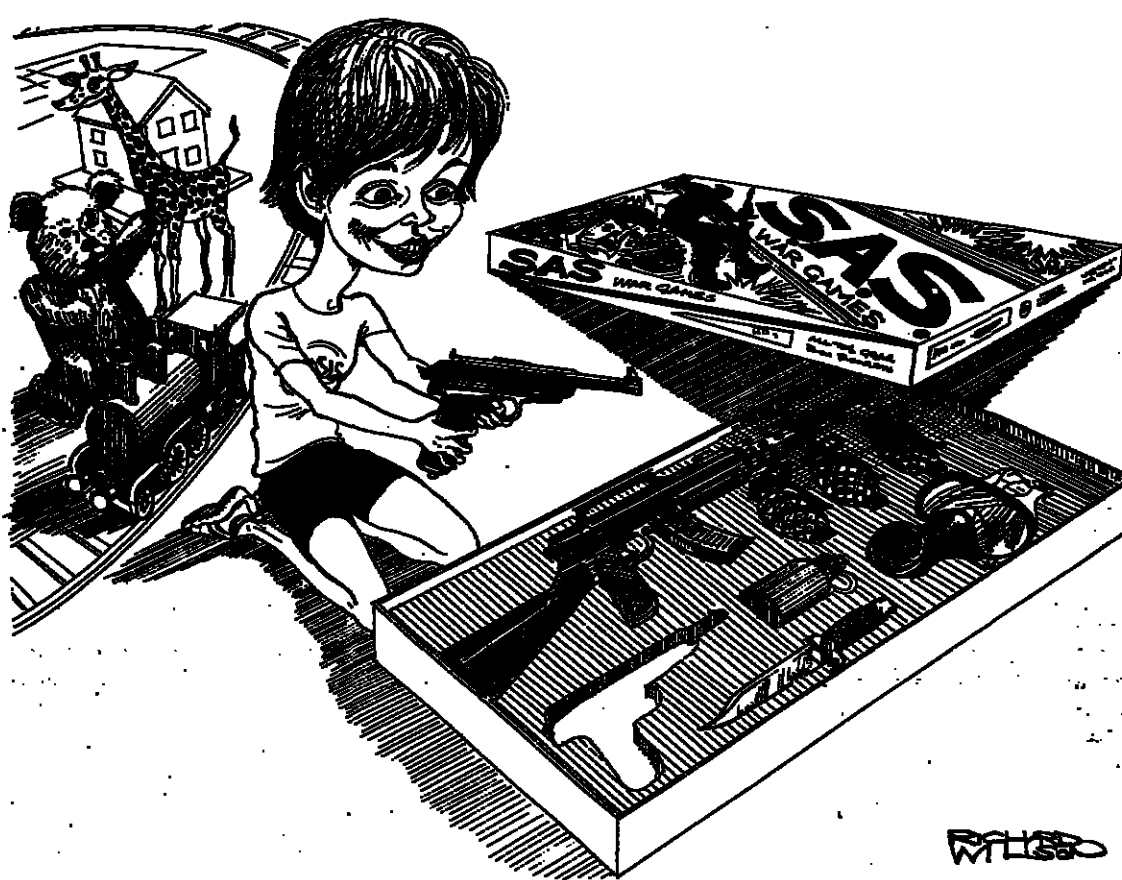
information as possible to the public. Any medical or scientific fact which has research uncovers and which might have political importance are therefore scanned twice — once by politicians who may wish to delay its publication, and once by civil servants who may want to conceal an unwelcome discovery altogether.

If there were a Richter scale to measure medical scares, the latest one, concerning traces of phthalates in babies' milk, would probably be of about the same magnitude as that induced last year by the discovery that some brands of contraceptive pill were more likely to cause a pulmonary embolism than others. The absolute increased risk of taking these brands of pills, was, and is, minute.

It is most unlikely that traces of phthalates in babies' milk will, or have, contributed to infertility in women or to the low sperm counts or any of the rest of the range of testicular problems which are more likely to afflict this generation than our forebears. But however improbable it is that damage will be done by traces of phthalates, nobody can be absolutely certain that somewhere some baby hasn't suffered; so the public must now be told: "which brands are involved, so that parents can make up their own minds about the likely risk and what they wish to do about it. The pity is that mothers, who mix their bottles this evening, will not have the kindly reassuring voice of Dr Hill to guide them."

Every boy's the son of a gun

The saving grace of gun-love is decent military discipline — which one-man armies lack



Tomorrow in Stirling, Lord Cullen's formal inquiry into the tragedy of Dunblane will begin. The misery of that day is too fresh to dwell on, and Scotland — like Tasmania — deserves its privacy still. But the fact is that out of the Cullen inquiry will almost certainly come important changes in the laws and regulations governing guns in Britain: already the Labour Party talks of a total ban on private handguns. It is time, for the rest of us to pause and consider exactly what we need from the law in this matter: which means looking, steadily and unemotionally, at the peculiar fascination which guns are always bound to have, whether we like it or not.

What is more, the end of a blustery Whitsun holiday is a weirdly apposite time to think about the relationship between men and guns. It was not only at the Pistol 96 handgun event at Bisleigh, with its 20,000 participants, that the subject came forcibly to mind. All over the country at church fêtes and fairsgrounds there were queues at shooting galleries, from professional electronic ones to makeshift affairs of straw-bales and airguns. At bigger events, such as the magnificent Bristol International Festival of the Sea where I spent the holiday, there would be at least one PR stand run by the Armed Services and packed with death-dealing toys.

At Bristol, even the Royal Navy speedboat simulator was outclassed by a sludge-green tent covered in netting and filled with Royal Marines in full kit, as if they were ready any minute to burst out and overrun Clifton. They were besieged day-long by hordes of little boys of all ages, and it forced me to see from a new perspective. When you stand with a group of mothers and watch your gentle, thoughtful, sensible sons crowding rapidly round the camouflage-patterned knees of a big Marine with a missile-launcher, there are certain truths about human nature that you have to admit to yourself.

It is not always easy. When a gun fanatic runs amok anywhere in the world, I am as ready as anybody else to rail against the awful invention,

which brings the horrible force of war into the innocent civilian world. After Dunblane, we had much of this railing. Some came from women, like the MP who said on the radio that she had only once been in the presence of a gun and found it so distasteful that she could not bring herself to touch it. But there were also comments such as that of John Stalker, who observed that if a policeman volunteers for armed service, that very fact is considered a reason to suspect that his state of mind makes him unfit for it. The gun lobby found themselves beleaguered and fought back, often without much grace, against a widening consensus that any private ownership or use of guns for sport is perverse, dangerous and deserving of no sympathy.

As I said, I am temperamentally inclined to this abolitionist view myself. However, that Marines tent made me accept what I had begun to suspect that you have to start from where you are. All day the affable Marines were surrounded by children reverently hefting ammo, peering through sniper sights ("Mum! you can take out someone through a window three thousand metres away!") and drinking in thrilling facts about GIs and AK47s and belted magazines. Whatever shortcomings the educational system may have, it seems there is no need for any

Libby Purves

child to reach the age of 10 without a good working knowledge of disposable fibreglass missile tubes and telescopic sights. We mothers stood it for as long as we could, then diverted them forcibly towards the graceful yards and topmasts of historic ships (wherein, naturally, they made for the gun decks).

This fact of boy-nature — apparent from the first time a carefully raised tot in a padfast home puts together a line of Duplo bricks, points it and says "Bang!" — is not something that wishful thinking or romantic idealism can expunge. Guns have been invented and cannot be un-invented: most boys (and not a few girls) are fascinated by the ingenuity, the compacted power and drama, which they represent.

Some boys never quite grow out of it. Perhaps more than ever today — when their personal strength and fighting instincts are denigrated by a deskbound, labourious society — Western men, even the best of them, may find release and a secret, alternative identity through the handling of guns. There is no point wishing this were not so: it is. Witness the torrent of bestselling SAS books (so out of hand now that Sir Peter de la Billière, the doyen of the genre, is reported to be leaving the presidency of the regimental association because colleagues say he has gone too far in feeding this appetite). Witness the senior judge who let slip to *Panorama* that if a burglar came in, he would like a gun.

The appetite is so strong that the gun lobby will fight hard and dirty to stay in existence whatever Cullen says, whatever Labour proposes. Moreover, if it feels that too much has been taken away, the hobby-guns will not be all given up obediently, but will go underground, like drugs. There they will become even less possible to regulate and even more entangled with the criminal gun trade. It might become easier, not harder, for the Michael Ryans and Thomas Hamiltons to get hold of the more dangerous kinds of handguns.

Far better that the rest of us smother our private revulsions and look for reasonable, enforceable curbs. The gun hobbyists are not stupid: the National Pistol Association banned combat gear and guns on belts at Bisleigh at the weekend. Stronger versions of this kind of discipline — ammunition stored only at clubs, a club ban

on guerrilla behaviour, and style — would go some way to isolate and therefore identify the really dangerous fantasists. I must admit that after the first cringe I found the Marines' tent fairly inoffensive, for as one boy summed it up sagely when he finally turned away, "They're only letting us play around with the guns to make us enrol, then there'd be all that yomping and getting up early and polishing things, and being yelled at".

Indeed, the saving grace of gun-love in decent armed services is that it is inseparable from discipline, teamwork, decorum and the bowing of private will and whim to a chain of command. The forces are the exact opposite of the lives led by selfish, dysfunctional, chippy loners like Ryan and Hamilton. Which is why the wearing of combat gear by hobbyists is so unnerving and disgusting, especially if they also insist on keeping their guns and ammunition at home. Armies are acceptable: one-man armies are not. Clubs need to accept this, as much as outsiders need to accept the need for gun clubs.

Useful restrictions could follow from this change of attitude, such as a total ban on automatic handguns, which are those that enable one man to cause disproportionate tragedy. Serious competitors, in Olympic events or their feeder, use single-shot or two-shot guns. They stop and reload. So do field sportsmen. Anybody who wants an automatically fed handgun is therefore not in the mainstream. Events organised for the minority and are less entitled to public tolerance than those which focus as much on the shooter's skill as on the weapon's deadly power. Nor is it necessary for non-service personnel ever to practise on man-shaped targets. Or to have their guns — with ammunition handy — in private houses.

You see where this is leading? We can regulate guns, we can limit them. We can ban automatics, so that the next vicious nutcase kills no more than one or two people. We can invent and enforce far stricter tests and public behaviour. We can separate the storage of ammunition from that of guns. Doing all that, we can probably carry the more sensible end of the gun fraternity with us, although there will be grumbles.

What we must not do is to become so blinded by disgust and fear that we overreact and try to suppress everything to do with handguns, from the machines themselves to the fantasy films about them. You might as well try to suppress sex, or pets, or alcohol, or the National Lottery, as try to suppress hobby-guns now. But, accepting that, we can make a far more intelligent effort at controlling them.

Scotch free

TERRIBLE news from the world of rugby union: Scotland's team are finished with alcohol. For the duration of their tour of New Zealand, they will be giving drink the sort of looks they usually reserve for opposition prop forwards. In short, their professionalism is smothering the very spirit of the game.

"We're just trying to do things a bit differently from in the past," bleated Scotland's coach Richie Dixon to the New Zealand press. His captain, Rob Wainwright, a man who has posed for menswear catalogues, approves. "I haven't touched a drop since we've been here," he says, "and that's true of most of the boys. There's no need to go out and find a release, as in the past perhaps there has been."

But what a past. Scots once dominated post-match revelries. From pug-faced hooker to clean-limbed wing, they would straighten their kilts, raise their "hivvy" and thunder out Highland tunes,

"It's a new trend I suppose," says Bill McLaren, the rugby commentator, of the new abstemiousness. "The Scots have always run a very strict union, but some of the older fellers would be amazed. One of the great aspects of rugby football is the social side, and players always



Rob Wainwright: abstaining

did have a drink with the other side after a game."

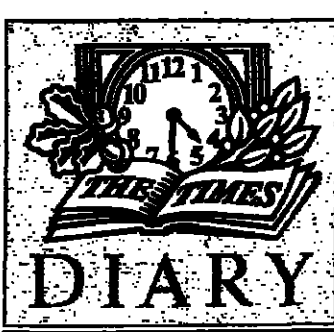
For McLaren, it is a sad day. "If all they are going to have is feed water," he says, "then there won't be much singing."

Lively sale

PROPERTY SALES with literary connections are booming at the moment, with the latest to take advantage of her fame being the author Penelope Lively. The Lutyns-style nine-bedroomed house in Somerset which has been in her family for 75 years has just been sold; it was the setting for her novel *Going Back*.

"It's terribly sad, but there's really nobody in the family in a position to live there and it's too far from London," says Lively, who won the Booker Prize in 1987. She was expected to have collected some £300,000 from the sale.

Senior Tories have been taking these Euro-retaliatory tactics seriously over the Bank Holiday. Take Angela Rumbold, deputy party chairman, who headed for her holiday home in France. None of



that filthy foreign horse meat for her. Before leaving, she packed her boot with great sides of banned British beef.

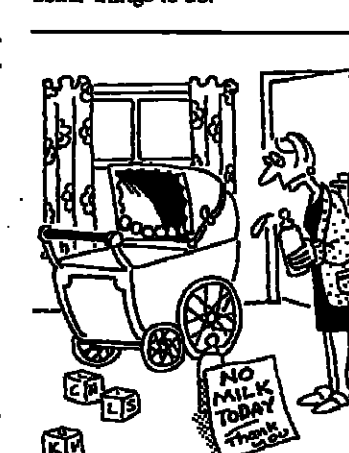
Flandersing

THOUGH not renowned for his levity, Michael Mates, the MP for Hampshire East, has found his niche in light entertainment: he is a dead-ringer for Michael Flanders, one half of Flanders and Swann.

After witnessing a Mates rendition of *The Armadillo Song*, Donald Swann declared: "Michael Mates is the nearest thing to Flan-

ders since Flanders." Encouraged, Mates, who was once a choral scholar, is to perform with the Swann lookalike and pianist William Godfree in a charity concert at Winchester College in July.

Among those invited to hear Mates interpret *I'm a Gnu* are Sir Edward Heath and the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine. "I didn't invite the PM," says Mates, "because he's probably got better things to do."



SAF Thompson

After a hard week fighting his judges, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was at Glyndebourne on Sunday night. He was attending a performance of *Handel's Theodora*, which tells of a vicious 4th-century Roman governor and his persecution of a beautiful Christian martyr. Whether it was the subject matter or plain fatigue, by the time the climax, when the governor signs Theodora's death sentence, Howard was spotted, head on chest emitting a low, ruffling snore.

Green Gill

GRISLIEST book of the year promises to be *Sap Rising* by A.A. Gill, a metropolitan journalist. At the front is a summary of the sub-Waugh plot: nobles and nymphomaniacs fuss over a communal garden in West London. Worse follows.

On the wrapper's rear flap is a picture of Gill — Adrian to his friends — wearing a tartan dressing-gown and monocle, with a thin leather thonglet round his neck. Lurking among a narcissistic long list of occupations, are his former



Pretentious, mo? A.A. Gill

incarnations as "gent's outfitter, pornographic book and sexual aids assistant... washer-up in a homo sexual club" and "male model".

Unsurprisingly, after such a life, Gill, 42, promises "comic grotesques with a lot of swearing and unnatural sex."

P.H.S

حکومتی اعلام



AN INTELLECTUAL ABROAD

Scepticism is not the same thing as jingoism

The Tories have in the past been stigmatised by their rivals as "the stupid party". In fact, over the last twenty years it has been the Right which has made the intellectual running. But now one of the cleverest Tories has declared he may desert. George Walden, MP for Buckingham, is unhappy with Mr Major's "jingoistic" policy towards Europe and has threatened to resign the whip.

Mr Walden is a man of original mind, author of an academic work on foreign policy and former Chairman of the Booker prize judging panel. As an ex-diplomat, it is understandable that he should entertain doubts about the wisdom of the Government's current stance. But in painting Euro-scepticism as aggressive nationalism spoiling for a fight he does a disservice to opponents of the European project. There is a sophisticated yet clear case, founded on solid evidence and settled sentiment, for the nation state and against further integration.

The defence of British sovereignty, because it touches on the deep questions such as identity and security may occasionally inflame passions. The fastidious may not care for the more raucous expressions of popular attachment to the nation and no government should pander to football terrace chauvinism. But it would be even more dangerous for politicians to govern without a feeling for the sinews of the State. In the last century statesmen as various as Gladstone, Disraeli and Salisbury all recognised the importance of appealing to the vulgar to secure support for their statecraft. As experience this century in Germany, and further East, shows, if the established parties do not reflect patriotic feeling it may become the property of darker forces outside the established polity.

These concerns do not appear to weigh heavily with Mr Walden. The member for Buckingham is an admirer of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the French academy that produces a governing elite — the *énarques* — who move easily between

politics, public service and the upper echelons of the private sector. The system certainly creates an intimacy among the governors but it also detaches them from the governed. In his easy transition from mandarin to minister Mr Walden mirrors the *énarques*, as he does in his preference for the intellectual over the instinctive.

But politicians need to win both hearts and minds. The Conservatives, although dismissed as "the stupid party" have been Europe's most successful democratic force when they have been in touch with the wisdom of the taproom, not just bewitched by the cleverness of the common room.

The success of the Euro-sceptics is, however, built on more than a reading of national character and an attachment to their native soil. Mr Walden may worry about an outbreak of "gaudy" patriotism and he may be concerned that a desire to keep these islands independent may turn Britons into cultural Calibans. But most sceptics rest their arguments on solid intellectual foundations and display a sympathy with other European nations.

Roger Scruton's analysis of common law and the constitution on the opposite page is part of a scholarly case against integration and it comes from the pen of a man who swims easily in the European mainstream, a distinguished interpreter of Hegel and Kant and friend of the former Czech dissidents who now govern in Prague. Some of the fiercest and most compelling polemics against federalism have come from polymaths such as the historian of Bosnia, Noel Malcolm, and Professor Norman Stone.

Before Mrs Thatcher's Bruges Speech the case for an ever closer union had almost gone by default. Since then popular discontent and intellectual questioning have turned matters around. Those uneasy with the assertiveness of the sceptics have a duty to show they are better democrats with stronger arguments before they rush to damn with the easy insult.

THE SECOND EMPIRE

France has a difficult role in Africa

French troops intervene somewhere in Africa about once every three months. The latest operation in the Central African Republic began two weeks ago and has grown into one of the more protracted operations the force of 1,300 men has had to undertake. A mutiny in the presidential guard turned into a general protest against President Patasse and the "colonial" forces. French troops were deployed in the centre of Bangui, a helicopter fired on mutineers near the radio station and the commanding general initiated talks with the rebels.

France says it acted for two reasons: to protect French citizens and to uphold democracy in Africa. No one has protested at the intervention. President Patasse has given the French carte blanche; neighbouring African countries have voiced diplomatic support; and the French taxpayers, preoccupied with so much else, have simply shrugged. Only the French Government appears concerned at being dragged into yet another African quarrel.

France still has some 8,000 troops in Africa, based in half a dozen former colonies. In the past five years French forces have intervened in at least 17 countries, ranging from Chad to Cameroon, Togo to the Comoros. Altogether Paris has defence or military assistance agreements with 30 nations around the world, a commitment proportionately larger than that undertaken by America. In almost all cases the agreements are with former colonies, which maintain far closer links with their erstwhile ruler than Britain's former colonies do with London.

As long as French citizens were still living in large numbers in Africa, Paris was ready to use its muscle to guarantee their safety. But the line between acting as gendarmes

during periodic rioting and playing the role of kingmakers in tribal African politics is too often blurred. Crushing the coup by white mercenaries against the President of the Comoros is a clear-cut case of defending a country against external aggression; helping the President of the Central African Republic remain in power looks like neo-colonialism.

President Chirac's decision to end conscription, forcing drastic cuts in military manpower, means a change in tactics and philosophy. A lean, professional force may still be able to conduct rapid operations to project French power and protect French interests. But France's foreign legions, scattered across the deserts and jungle of Africa, are no longer affordable.

Instead, France is trying to build up African peace-keeping forces, able to draw on Western expertise and logistics if necessary, to halt aggression and ethnic bloodshed. Such a force, France argues, could have been deployed when the Rwanda genocide began, and might now prevent a similar catastrophe in Burundi. The proposal has British support; indeed, Douglas Hurd launched the idea with France as part of their increasing defence co-operation. They would help educate and train a pan-African force in the techniques of peace-keeping and refugee care. So far little has come of the idea. The Africans are unenthusiastic; most would like France simply to carry out their defence for them. Britain is wary of being drawn into new commitments. And the Organisation of African Unity is too feeble to command a peace-keeping operation. Nevertheless, the issue must be faced. France is wearying of its African burden, and has neither the will nor money to remain in Bangui indefinitely.

PRIMARY PROBLEMS

A failing system falls back on expulsion

Figures showing that expulsions from primary schools have increased fourfold in the past four years should bring every teacher up with a jolt. Last year some 1,445 children, under the age of 11, were expelled, largely from schools drawing pupils from deprived urban areas. Compared with the two million children at primary school this is a small number. But it is a huge increase on the 1991 total, when only 378 were thrown out. It is the starkest testimony to the rising levels of indiscipline, parental inadequacy and teacher failure now afflicting British education.

Expulsion is the ultimate sanction that can be brought against a disruptive child. Normally reserved for secondary pupils whose behaviour can paralyse an entire class, the threat depended as much on parental shame as on the blight to future job prospects. That threat, sadly, is less and less effective today. Nevertheless, expulsion is a step that few heads undertake lightly. If a school cannot contain a disruptive pupil aged 11 or less, this suggests either behaviour patterns verging on the psychotic or teachers ill-equipped to deal with the explosion of playground rage.

Keeping order is the first pre-requisite of good teaching. One unruly child can set back the attainment of all his peers. The back the attainment of all his peers. The sudden rise in expulsions may, on first sight, look like a panic reaction by poor schools to

the threat of being declared "failing". Or they may fear their difficulties will be highlighted by the prospect of league tables and the loss of pupils withdrawn by dissatisfied parents.

A closer look at the inspectors' reports, however, shows that blame must be cast much wider. Four out of five of those expelled come from families known to social service workers: dysfunctional, violent, poverty-stricken and criminal families where parents neither know nor care what their children are doing. Children from these backgrounds frequently display aggression at school; and attacks on teachers or pupils are the main reason for primary expulsions.

Teachers themselves are often in despair at having to neglect an entire class to try to rescue a delinquent. They blame the closure of special schools and the insistence — without additional funding — that more and more children with special needs are catered for in mainstream schools. Their real frustration, however, is with the poor follow-up to expulsion. Some pupils are taken into special regime schools; a few will be given tuition at home; but most are simply shuffled around the system. A school that throws out a pupil loses the money for the place. It has a strong incentive to fill the gap. And the pupil directed there by the local authority, as often as not, is the one just expelled from a neighbouring school.

Archbishop's plea on divorce reform

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, Your report (May 23) indicates that the Family Law Bill may fail to reach the statute book. The Bill has been strengthened during its difficult passage through Parliament to date in at least three key areas: there is now a longer waiting period in some circumstances, which more clearly signals the seriousness of marriage; a greater emphasis on reconciliation, offering a better prospect of saving saveable marriages; and a statutory provision for marriage support services.

If enacted, the Bill will certainly be neither easy nor cheap to implement properly. But it does offer the attractive prospect that it could overcome the even greater deficiencies of the present system.

Whatever happens to this Bill, however, our society cannot afford to disregard the groundswell of deep anxiety it has stirred up about the future of marriage and the human, social and economic costs of divorce. The sustained commitment of all political parties is needed to identify and to fund practical and effective ways of supporting marriage and family life. This must include greater public investment in education for relationships and parenting, in marriage preparation and in marriage counselling.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUMBLE
Archbishop of Westminster,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1,
May 27.

European court

From Mr J. A. Davis

Sir, I believe Mr Paul Farmer (letter, May 20), a legal secretary at the European Court of Justice, to be mistaken in suggesting that the court merely "helps" British courts. It is true that the court normally operates through the process of a reference, but national courts must apply the answer they get, even if the effect is to overturn a provision of a national law.

Any national court from which there is no appeal (in our case the House of Lords) must refer a question if one is raised, and if a national judiciary failed to comply, the European Court could become seized of the issue by a complaint brought by the Commission, another member or — in some cases, I believe — a citizen of the non-complying member.

Why Woodrow Wyatt ("A change of heart on Europe", May 7) should complain about this is difficult to see. It is, by his own contention, what he campaigned for in 1975. Of course it is possible that he did not bother to read the Treaty of Rome before doing so.

The debate in Europe is not assisted in this country by the Euro-enthusiasts of the day, whether it be Woodrow Wyatt in 1975 or Mr Farmer in 1996, seeking to disguise the essentially federal nature of the Union.

Nor is it helped by Euro-sceptics irresponsibly and dishonestly peddling a low-key type of membership which is not and never will be on offer.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAVIS
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey,
May 20.

Gambaccini's fall

From Mr Stephen Pollock-Hill

Sir, One vital ingredient sets Radio 3 apart from all the other radio programmes ("Gambaccini falls victim to Middle England", May 20). It is an island of quiet stillness amongst a harsh cacophony of sound on the airwaves. Just tuning in has a calming influence, especially on the listener in a car. It is also a refuge from the commercial world of jingles and commercial breaks.

The programme makers and the controller should not be overconcerned by audience ratings: popular does not mean best. Let them instead concentrate on sounds and voices that thrill and delight. Let us have more announcers and readers with splendid voices, modulated tones and good enunciation: a tribute to our beautiful language, and the finest music available free of gimmicks.

Excellence and high quality do have a price — usually that of popularity.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN POLLOCK-HILL,
HomeWood,
Knebworth, Hertfordshire,
May 21.

Frogspawn blight

From Mr Peter Dawes

Sir, During recent walks around the West Highlands I have come across many sizeable deposits of frogspawn. However, almost invariably, the spawn has been white and opaque rather than colourless and clear as healthy examples usually are. Signs of development of the "eggs" into tadpoles have been absent in almost all of the pools I have seen this year.

Locals suggest that the cause may be the late and cold spring, but up around 1,500 to 2,000ft at this time of the year it is often quite cold, so is this the real explanation?

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWES,
Torwood, Watson Street,
Banchory, Kincardineshire,
May 20.

Why Nato must enlarge eastwards

From Dr Jonathan Eyal

Sir, Your correspondents' appeals against Nato's enlargement further east (letters, May 16, 23) raise serious questions about Europe's security but provide no persuasive answers. If arcane interpretations of various Nato treaty provisions are set aside, their argument seems both simple and fundamentally fallacious: that instead of enlargement on the Continent, the West has the option of keeping the old divisions in place.

Europe, however, is not faced with an array of good and bad alternatives but rather with a set of difficult choices, all of which carry risks; the real task is to opt for a security arrangement which limits these risks and spreads a maximum of stability. Standing still by keeping either Nato or the European Union in its present make-up is not an option, and the alternatives currently touted amount to little more than abdication of responsibility.

If Central Europe does not have any security problem, what are the security concerns that keep Western countries in the Alliance and persuade the US to remain its largest single contributor? And, if the Central Europeans are considered incapable of contributing to the security of the North Atlantic area, then what about Luxembourg, Belgium or Denmark, to name but three small Nato member states?

The hope that a new security organisation could be created to include all European countries and Russia is not particularly original. One such structure already exists: the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Nobody in the West takes the OSCE seriously, for reasons that the Central Europeans know very well. Trying to fit a country like Russia into a security structure which is both meaningful and all-embracing is like attempting to squeeze an elephant into a bath tub: the elephant will not get a good swim, and not much will remain of the bath tub either.

Prospects for devolution in Britain

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, When Matthew Parris argued (May 20) that a "small nation can never be truly independent, its autonomy is always a lie", and that "small nationalisms are always a curse", I thought at first that he was describing the diminished role of the United Kingdom in the global economy. Yet, no, this outburst was part of a general denunciation not of the increasing impotence of the nation-state, but, rather, of regionalism in Europe (and devolution in Britain).

Apparently Mr Parris believes that Scotland, Wales and the regions of England — should they gain their freedom from Whitehall — cannot possibly be independent because they are too small (as well as being "primitive" and "whining"). Yet, the argument for regionalism throughout Europe — for Scottish, Welsh and English statehood — has nothing to do with independence.

Rather, it is all about democracy. Whilst Europe/Brussels is the only polity big enough to handle the geopolitical questions of trade, foreign policy and defence, the regions and nations of Britain are the right size to enable citizens to have some say over services. Why should not the social services — health and education principally — be run by regions rather than the Whitehall bureaucracy? Also new regional governments in England would serve to overcome Mr Parris's fear (article, May 27) of extreme English nationalism rising from out of the ashes of the UK.

The fact is that in the emerging Eur-

ope it is our old friend and codger, Parris's beloved UK, which is the real old man out. The UK is too small to be independent — in the modern global economy a nation of 55 million is simply no longer able to determine its own economic policy or deal as an equal with international capital — and it is too big to enable the citizen to participate.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN HASELER,
2 Thackeray House,
Ansfield Street, W8,
May 27.

From Mr Graham Galilee
Sir, With Matthew Parris I find that all this talk of devolution sits very ill. It is barely 400 years since, with the Union of the Crowns, that our border counties were returned to peace. Prior to that they had warred with a Balkan ferocity and intensity that should make us think deeply before reopening this Pandora's box.

The Border Reivers sound so romantic now, but the fratricidal warfare was no different to that which we have seen within and between Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia, complete with the rape, pillage and ethnic cleansing. Our forebears from the marches would think us mad at the thought of throwing peace away.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM GALILEE,
Post Cottage,
Barnham,
Richmond, North Yorkshire,
May 27.

From Mr John de Havilland
Sir, Exactly 200 years ago to the very day, my g-g-g-grandfather posted from Guernsey some drafts for the credit of his account in London. He received confirmation by post from his bankers 92 hours later, and endorsed his letter book to the effect that he thought this was good going for the Guernsey Post Office, established two years earlier.

The route the Guernsey Mail followed was to Weymouth, a crossing of some 80 miles, and from there 130 miles by coach to London. Doubtless the bank moved with great speed, but there was then, of course, the return journey. I wonder if the time taken for this sort of transaction is any faster today.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN de HAVILLAND,
Cottesloe Lodge, Bisleigh, Surrey,
May 22.

From Mrs Barbara Lyndon Skeggs
Sir, Miss Boothroyd's beautiful new rose "Madam Speaker" (Court page, May 17) is described as "always nicely perfumed" — and no doubt she is delighted.

My mother was equally flattered by having an orchid named after her until she read the description, "this beautiful flower with a mauve spotted face and a yellow hairy quivering lip".

My mother at 98 still blooms, the orchid alas does not.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA LYNDON SKEGGS,
Oakhall,
Cornhill on Tweed, Northumberland,
May 17.

Higher education inquiry 'absurd'

From the Chairman of the Council for Academic Autonomy

Sir, Like Lord Dahrendorf (letter, May 22), I welcomed the setting up of the 17-strong committee of inquiry into higher education under Sir Roy Dearing. But it is not only, as he points out, that the persons chosen apparently include no one from the humanities and social sciences; they also seem to include no one with current involvement and experience in teaching ordinary students in any non-elite university.

Yet it is the, wholly welcome, entry of many thousands more students into higher education which is the main factor which has led to the setting up of the inquiry.

From the university side, the committee represents elite, top-down management and, from outside, various consumers of the currently fashionable "training", "information" or "skills" which are supposed to be the product.

Of course the finance and management of higher education is a major issue, as is the usefulness and applicability of what is taught in universities. But the exclusion of anyone who actually now teaches students is absurd, not just because it is a further blow to the morale of those who have this responsibility, but because it will help to shield the committee from any real understanding of the object of its deliberations.

We have a right to expect something better than this, on a matter which is so important for the creation of an educated, democratic society.

Yours sincerely,
F. G. B. MILLAR, Chairman,
Council for Academic Autonomy,
Brasenose College, Oxford,
May 23.

University entry

From the Chief Executive of UCAS

Sir, I am concerned that your readers will draw the wrong conclusions from your listing of "entry grades" in the 1996 league table of universities (May 17). Your source of information was the grades required for admission as indicated in my organisation's publication *University & College Entrance*.

The conclusions which you draw from that information are misleading because:

1. Only 65 per cent of home students admitted to higher education institutions in 1995 offered A levels as their main qualification, so that your table has ignored 35 per cent of entrants.
2. The data in *University & College Entrance* set out the A-level grades which are likely to be asked of applicants but do not reflect the actual grades on entry. For example, it is usual for lower grades to be accepted for those admitted in the clearing process which matches unsuccessful applicants to vacancies.
3. Since the A-level grades required for entry reflect demand for courses rather than the quality of students, it follows that the average A-level grades asked by institutions reflect the subject-mix in them. For example, institutions offering medicine (average entry score 27.4) or classics (23.3) or law (22) are likely to score higher than those specialising, for example, in teacher training (14).

Yours faithfully,
M. A. HIGGINS,
Chief Executive,
Universities and Colleges
Admissions Service,
Fulton House, Jessop Avenue,
Chesham, Gloucestershire,
May 21.

Express mail

From Mr John de Havilland

Sir, Exactly 200 years ago to the very day, my g-g-g-grandfather posted from Guernsey some drafts for the credit of his account in London. He received confirmation by post from his bankers 92 hours later, and endorsed his letter book to the effect that he thought this was good going for the Guernsey Post Office, established two years earlier.

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I wonder if the time taken for this sort of transaction is any faster today.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN de HAVILLAND,
Cottesloe Lodge, Bisleigh, Surrey,
May 22.

Blooming cheek

From Mrs Barbara Lyndon Skeggs

Sir, Miss Boothroyd's beautiful new rose "Madam Speaker" (Court page, May 17) is described as "always nicely perfumed" — and no doubt she is delighted.

My mother was equally flattered by having an orchid named after her until she read the description, "this beautiful flower with a mauve spotted face and a yellow hairy quivering lip".

My mother at 98 still blooms, the orchid alas does not.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA LYNDON SKEGGS,
Oakhall,
Cornhill on Tweed, Northumberland,
May 17.

OBITUARIES

LADY MARGARET DOUGLAS-HOME

Lady Margaret Douglas-Home, GM, musician and patron of the arts, died on May 26 aged 89. She was born on July 4, 1906.



A LINGERING presence from an Edwardian age, Lady Margaret Douglas-Home, the youngest child of the 6th Earl Spencer, bore sparkling witness to an era gone by. Her memories were vividly printed, she said, always vivid, even to the texture of the threadbare carpet on the corridor leading out to the shelving rooves of Althorp, her family home. She remembered the coronation of George V, the acting of the great Sarah Bernhardt — "for me at that moment her voice filled the world" — and the time that her father sat for a portrait by Sargent. Her memoir, *A Spencer Childhood* (1994), is a nostalgic account of a stately country-house life which was to dissolve and vanish forever with the onset of the First World War.

Yet Lady Margaret was far from a reclusive trapped within dusty memories of grandeur. In a life which spanned five Earl Spencers at Althorp, she remained keenly alert to the changing times. She was the great aunt of the Princess of Wales, the widow of Alec Douglas-Home's brother Henry and the mother of the late Charles Douglas-Home, the former Editor of *The Times*. She remained a charismatic and indomitably optimistic figure, though her life was scarred by the tragic early death of her two sons. Her mischievous wit was alarmingly reminiscent of Lady Bracknell, but she never lost touch with the world of the young. On occasion, however, she would confuse their modern world with the past she had known. When her grandson's wife told her that she sold jewellery for a living, she replied with characteristic concern, "Oh, you poor thing. I once had to sell some jewellery too."

Lady Margaret Spencer, as she was before she married, was the third daughter of "Bobby", 6th Earl Spencer, Lord Chamberlain to Edward VII and George V. She had three brothers of whom Jack, 7th Earl Spencer, was grandfather of the Princess of Wales. Her two older sisters, Lady Delia Peel and Lavinia Lady Annaly, were both childhood friends and extra ladies-in-waiting to the Queen Mother.

But by the time Lady Margaret was born her brothers and sisters had left the "noble uniformed pile" of Althorp. Nor did she ever know her mother, the Honourable Margaret Baring, daughter of the first Baron Revelstoke, who died giving birth to her.

Perhaps Earl Spencer could never forgive his daughter for being the unwitting cause of his beloved wife's death. Lady Margaret lived a solitary childhood, trained not to get in her father's way. The only time she dined with him alone was in the last few months of his life when, sitting together at an uncomfortable card table, he gave her a detailed account of the political world of the 19th century.

It was the small army of Althorp servants which formed her family — Tom Irons, shiny with coal dust, round Mrs Winn in the kitchen and the red-bearded farm labourers whose appearances were strikingly similar to the sisters in her family portraits. For years after she left Althorp her nanny would send her the local paper so that she could keep up with the gossip.

Lady Margaret's earliest memory of attending the Coronation of King George V when she was nearly four. Mightily pleased with her first pair of stockings, she thrust a leg out of the stands to show them off to her neighbour, only to find she could not squeeze it back in again. Just then her father, as Lord Chamberlain, passed

by in a golden coach. He was "wilted visibly," she said, but when he caught sight of his daughter the "wilt" turned to horror.

However, on the whole the pattern of her life remained undeviating from year to year. A spell at Althorp was followed by a stay at Spencer House near London's Green Park and an annual summer visit to Norfolk. In London she discovered the love of music — inherited perhaps from her mother who had been a competent violinist — which was to remain with her throughout her life. Every Sunday, accompanied by the schoolroom maid, she would clamber onto the blutery upper deck of the number No 9 bus (the Underground was banned on account of dangerous germs) and make her way to the Albert Hall where she would listen to the heady popular classics of her days. Sometimes her Baring relations would also come to visit and, clustered out of earshot behind the green baize door, they would scrape out sonatas together.

Left to her own devices Lady Margaret would play on her pogo stick — one of the first batch at Hamleys — bounding and crashing her way around Spencer House. But if she took it out onto the street she would always have to wear her hat with its detested elastic under her chin. Standards were strict, and even on her annual visit to the drizzling English coast she would never be allowed to divest herself of her long woollen socks.

At Althorp the chiming of the stable clock marked out a life of quiet order, but there were minor privileges to lighten the routine. She could stay up later than usual for family prayers when all the staff mustered in the chapel. But for months on end she would have little companionship. Her time passed by, the end of each day marked by Fred — with his pocketfuls of acid drops — lowering the flag, and the end of each week by a dose of syrup of figs administered by the shirt-sleeved butler. The Pychley hounds were kennelled there during the hunt-

ing season, in the winter there was skating on the oval pond and in summer the smell of jam simmering in the still room pervaded even the bedrooms of the furthest wing.

Lessons were given by an elderly governess, Miss Wells, who had taught all the family. Lady Margaret was wildly envious of her London cousins who went to school. But for a while she attended Northampton Secondary Girls School — on Tuesdays only — allowing the thrilling independence of bicycling to the station.

The First World War remained only a hazy memory for Lady Margaret, except for the dread that she felt when accompanying her father, white-faced, to the station to bid goodbye to the estate men. They were her friends — the gardeners who had broken the seasaw with her, the groom who had concealed the fact that they still held the leading rein when she was frightened. Later their commemorative gravestones would be put up on the garden wall.

The house staff was halved during the war and, with no schoolroom maid, Margaret was sent to join the Girl Guides to learn the skills of darning and knitting, bathing babies and dancing the hornpipe. But in 1922 her father died and her brother Jack took over Althorp. No one seemed quite to know what to do with her, she said, so she was dispatched to Paris where she studied French literature and music. It was with some reluctance that she returned after nearly three years to Spencer House ready for her coming out ball with a dress from Molyneux that cost £15. The whole evening was glittering, she later recalled, except perhaps for the Duchess of Portland's tiara which, she heard a footman observe, had not been polished for quite some time.

Her coming out was followed by the hectic weeks through the season, temporary at that time. She stayed for a while in South Africa as lady-in-waiting to Princess Alice. She studied music in Vienna — a period from

which all her best memories came — and also at the Royal Academy in London. Had her family encouraged her she would like to have pursued music as a career. She was an accomplished pianist and during her lifetime was to accompany many well recognised artists and even to give recitals at Wigmore Hall.

In 1931 she married the Honourable Henry Douglas-Home, a house agent in London who looked, as his brother described him, "like a dissipated version of the Duke of Windsor". Her wedding dress had lace on it that had belonged to Marie Antoinette so she was not allowed to cut it. It was draped over her like a sheet, she said. The marriage ended in divorce shortly after the war.

During the Second World War Lady Margaret assisted Kenneth Clarke in the publications wing of the National Gallery. She also set up a small publishing firm in London, Home and Van Thal. She was awarded the George Medal after rescuing a baby from a bombed house.

But by the end of the war Lady Margaret became obsessed with getting what she called a "normal" job. She had never done that sort of thing before, and the idea thrilled her. Moving to Burnham Market in Norfolk she opened an antique shop which she ran successfully for several years.

She remained in Norfolk and was much loved by the local community as much for her generosity as for her lively outlook on life. For more than 20 years she organised the local arts festival — in 1991 exhibiting some of the Prince of Wales's watercolours — and attracted eminent performers to musical recitals in the village church.

Until the end of her life she remained alert and involved with village life. Her modest brick cottage was constantly flooded with visiting relatives and friends.

Her former husband predeceased her in 1980. Her two sons Robin and Charles also died young. She is survived by a daughter.

LORD LUKE

Ian Lawson Johnston, 2nd Lord Luke, KCV, businessman, died on May 25 aged 90. He was born on June 7, 1905.



LORD Luke was chairman of Bovril, the company which his grandfather had founded in the last century, from 1943 until 1970. But he had too many other interests — social, philanthropic, business and sporting — to be easily categorised. During the 1950s he was best known to the public as the president of the Advertising Association. Hunting men, however, spoke of him as the sometime Master of the Oakley Hunt; and agriculturalists regarded him as a cattle breeder and Argentine *estanciero*. Sportsmen knew him as the British representative, for many years, on the International Olympic Committee.

Ian St John Lawson Johnston was the son of the first Lord Luke, the industrialist and philanthropist. His father's title alluded to St Luke's patronage of hospitals, in which the family took a special interest. Ian was brought up with his five siblings in the family's Bedfordshire home village of Pavenham and in London. Ian's mother Laura was the daughter of the 16th Baron St John of Bletsoe, and was an invaluable helpmate to her husband. In the family's drawing room in Portman Square, she would stage lively debates on religious or charitable topics, or she might invite 200 guests at a time to listen to the memoirs of some explorer or author.

Ian was imbued from childhood with a strong sense of public service, and of the necessity to live an active, all-rounded life. He went to Eton, where he was a fast half-miler and a strong gamesman, and to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read History. He then joined the family company of Bovril, which had been founded by his grandfather John Lawson Johnston. He learnt all about the business with the implicit understanding that he would one day take over its running and, like his father, he travelled widely in Australia and South America to study the beef industry.

He had joined the Territorial Army before the Second World War, and when hostilities broke out was made second in command of the 5th Battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Fortunately, he was transferred to the 9th Battalion in 1940, and so escaped the dreadful fate which befell his companions of the 5th Battalion at Singapore. In any case his army service was abruptly curtailed in 1943 when his father died. Luke was recalled to business matters, and took over the reins of Bovril as its new chairman.

The office of Bovril were then in Old Street, and from there City headquarters Luke directed the operations of what was then a medium-sized public company. During Luke's years as director and chairman, Bovril expanded successfully into other products — it took over Marmite, for example — while consolidating its solid reputation with the public. Shortly after Luke retired from the chair, the company was sold to Cavenham, owned by James Goldsmith.

Simultaneously with his business interests, Luke was speaking regularly at the House of Lords and carving out an influential role for himself on the public stage. He served as president of the London Chamber of Commerce during the early 1950s, and in 1955 started a three-year term as chairman of the Advertising Association. His father, the first baron, had been one of the early experts in advertising and Luke, building on this early exposure to the business, became an eloquent representative of the industry with the public and with ministers.

His sporting interests took up more time during the 1950s. He was chairman of the National Playing Fields Association for a quarter of a century from 1950. He had joined the association during a period when an appalling number of children were being killed on the streets every year, for want of having nowhere better to play their games. It was by this means that he came to know the Duke of Edinburgh (who became godfather to his son Philip).

In 1951 Luke joined the IOC, and he remained on the Olympic Committee until 1988. There he was instrumental in bringing the whole movement of the Games up to date, a goal which he tried to achieve without sacrificing the underlying spirit of the event. He added his commercial expertise and weight to the IOC's finance committee in particular. On the debate about the amateur status of competitors, which raged fiercely during his time at the IOC, Luke took the line that he would prefer to see the amateur tradition con-

tinued. But when he saw that the need for reform was overwhelming, he added his reasonable voice to the side of change.

Of the numerous other businesses on whose boards he sat, special mention must be made of his chairmanship of Electrolux, 1963-68, and his directorships of Lloyds Bank and of IBM, during the latter's early days of expansion. He was appointed KCV in 1976.

Luke's sense of public duty stemmed from sincerely held religious beliefs. His deep singing voice could often be heard swelling the congregation at All Saints in Odell, and sometimes at the lectern and the pulpit. He was a traditionalist by inclination, but he tried to keep an open mind to the more radical beliefs of others. He was pleased to offer hospitality to Billy Graham when the evangelical preacher was visiting Britain in 1964.

Luke was devoted to his family. Whenever he could, he returned from his meetings in London to spend the evenings at his home at Odell, not far from Pavenham, which had splendid views overlooking the valley of the River Ouse. In 1932 he had married Barbara, daughter of Sir FitzRoy Hamilton Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe. She was immensely supportive of everything he undertook, and, as well as bringing up their five children, liked to personally chauffeur her husband between meetings, home and the railway station.

Within the county, Luke served as a JP, County Councillor and Deputy Lieutenant. He remained in reasonably good health until just after his 90th birthday. The last of his responsibilities which he relinquished — and then only reluctantly because of his age — were those for the Royal British Legion, and for the Drapers' Company of which he had been master in the early 1960s.

He is survived by his wife, and by one daughter and four sons, the elder of whom, Arthur Lawson Johnston, succeeds him to the barony.

GERARDO RUEDA



Gerardo Rueda Salaberry, Spanish abstract painter and sculptor, died of a cerebral haemorrhage on May 25 aged 70. He was born in Madrid on April 23, 1926.

"WHENEVER I walk down the street," Gerardo Rueda once told a bemused interviewer, "and see a dustbin filled with what people call rubbish, I am startled. For I have found there things to use in my art. With a sumptuous cardboard carton one can make a sumptuous picture."

If the composed humour of those words conveys something of the serenity of Rueda — among the most important as well as the most undervalued of post Civil War Spanish

artists — the reference to "sumptuous cardboard" tells also of his sense of artistic medium and dimension.

Soft of voice and economical of gesture, Rueda was one of the earliest artists in Spain to venture into pure abstraction, breaking with the received Surrealist and Expressionist wisdom of his time. Although he studied Law at university, and not without success, he was rescued from a life in robes and chambers by the call of the canvas. His first works, which date from 1942, were small, almost miniature, geometrical landscapes. That style, which the art critic Francisco Calvo Serrallier has described as "analytical and normative", was to remain with him for the rest of his life. Affected at various times by

the Cubists (whose works he spent much time copying into a notebook as a young man), Paul Klee, Giorgio Morandi and Juan Gris, Rueda was perhaps most influenced by Nicolas de Staël, whose ochre and grey tones he found particularly convincing.

But his earliest artistic success was derived from a series of silk collages, in which the medium was deliberately rumpled to create relief and three-dimensionality. His first exhibition, "Collages and Abstract Drawings", was held in 1954, and many of these early collages form part of an anthological exhibition of his works now on display in Valencia's Institute of Modern Art. In 1960 he participated in the Venice Biennale, an achievement of which he re-

mained extremely, and endearingly, proud to the last.

Rueda's name will always be linked with that sometimes perverse concept, "modern art", particularly in its abstract manifestation. Spanish art and artists will ever acknowledge with gratitude his role in the founding in 1966, in Cuenca, along with the painters Bernardo Zobe and Gustavo Torner — of the Museo Español de Arte Abstracto, the first of its kind in the whole of Europe. Asked to evaluate Rueda on the day he died, Torner, the only survivor of that Cuenca trio, declared emotionally that "he was one of the great artists that the plastic arts have known this century".

The effect of their new museum of abstract art on

Spanish artists at the time was electric, even subversive. The Francoist Spanish establishment was still then in the thrall of the classical and the folkloric, and the country had only very limited contact with "the vanguard". As well as that of the museum, Rueda's personal influence can be detected in an entire generation of Spanish abstract artists, including Gerardo Delgado, Elena Asins, José María Yturralde, Jordi Teixidor, Miguel Angel Campano and Juan Antonio Aguirre.

Rueda was also a Spanish Royal Academician — a member of the Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando — and was due to give an important lecture there at the end of this month on "Art and the Culture of Reference". When asked by

friends a few days ago about the contents of this lecture, he replied simply that he "had not yet written it". There can be no doubt, however, that he would have referred to what he described as the "great sin" of contemporary Spanish artists — "laziness".

An exhibition of Rueda's works, entitled *Trayectorias* (or "Journies"), is at present touring various museums of modern art in Latin America, and there were ambitious plans, to which the artist himself was party, to mount a series of exhibitions of his works in the United States. But Rueda suffered the first of several unexpected black-outs earlier this month and, on May 20, went into a coma from which he never emerged.

University news

St Andrews
Honorary degrees will be awarded by the University of St Andrews to the following in June:
Timothy Peter Piffert Clifford, Director, National Galleries of Scotland — LL.D (Doctor of Laws).
David John Moore Cornwell (John's Carre), writer — D.Litt (Doctor of Letters).
Sir John Olav Kerr, Ambassador to the United States of America — LL.D (Doctor of Laws).
Ter Honour Suzanne Norwood, President, Mental Health Review Tribunal, and retired resident judge, Middlesex Crown Court — LL.D (Doctor of Laws).
Bruno Strossli, Libera Docenza, Professor of Electrochemistry, Università degli studi di Roma "La Sapienza" — D.Sc (Doctor of Science).
Iranan Mikhail-Ashrafi, Professor of English Literature, Birkett University — LL.D (Doctor of Laws).
Alec John Jeffreys, FRS, Profes-

or of Genetics and Wolfson Research Professor of the Royal Society, University of Leicester — D.Sc (Doctor of Science).
Thomas W Gillespie, President, Princeton Theological Seminary — DD (Doctor of Divinity).
John Hume, MP, Leader, Social Democratic and Labour Party — LL.D (Doctor of Laws).
Martha Nussbaum, Professor of Law and Ethics, University of Chicago — D.Litt (Doctor of Letters).
Queen's University of Belfast
Queen's University has won research funding of more than £9 million. The latest grants have come from a wide range of sources, including the Department of Economic Development's Industrial Research and Technology Unit, government departments, industry, charities, research councils and the European Union.
The funding is for studies in the university's Faculties of Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Economics and Social Sciences, Education, En-

gineering, Law, Medicine and Science.
The university's Health and Health Care Research Unit and its Research Management Unit have also benefited.
The largest slice of the funding package, around £3.8 million, has been awarded to the university's environmental research initiative, the QUESTOR Centre. The grants to the centre include just over £2.7 million from the European Regional Development Fund to develop clean technology and demonstration technology, and more than £1 million from the International Fund for Ireland for the development of a technology transfer programme to small and medium-sized enterprises.
Among other projects to receive funding is the research by Dr Philip O'Reilly of the Health and Health Care Research Unit on health-related knowledge and perceptions of the people of Belfast, which has received £12,000 from the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.
The following honorary titles have been conferred:
Honorary Professor in the School of Education: Ivan Wallace, formerly senior chief inspector of schools in Northern Ireland.
Honorary Professor in the School of Chemistry: Dr Robert Holmes, head of the company research laboratory and company chief scientist, British Nuclear Fuels.
Honorary Professor in the School of Mathematics and Physics: Professor Aric Menon, vice-president of engineering for recording head operations, Seagate Technology Corp.
Honorary Lecturer in the School of Agriculture and Food Science: Dr Robert Roy and Dr Crawford Jordan, principal scientific officers, Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, and Dr Alistair Douglas, veterinary research officer, Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.
Appointment
Dr Ivan Morus, formerly an affiliate research scholar at Cambridge University, has been appointed to a post in the School of Philosophical and Anthropological Studies in the subject area of the History of Medicine. The post, at leadership level, arose from a joint initiative by Queen's and the Wellcome Trust and is known as a Wellcome Award.

ON THIS DAY

May 28, 1937

Ramsay MacDonald (1866-1937), born in a two-roomed "hut and ben" at Lossiemouth, Grampian, was prime minister 1924, 1929-31 and, of the National Government, 1931-35.
unusual number of dramatic reversals of fortune. The early years of grinding poverty in London, the long struggle to build up an independent Labour Party, the achievement of leadership just before the outbreak of the War, the speech against the War which turned him in a moment from a political leader into a political pariah, the long period in the wilderness endured without complaint, the swift recovery of leadership and the first triumphant entry into office in 1924, the collapse in the same year and the five years' further waiting until fortune smiled again in 1929, the vain struggles with a difficult team

and with difficult events until 1931, the final great decision to cut loose from the waverers and to form a National Government — these are the salient features of a story full of high lights and of dark shadows, but notable throughout for a courageous readiness to face unpopularity for the sake of the causes which he believed to be right. During the years since 1931 he has had to face the unflinching racism of those who had not the courage to follow him in that year. That has necessarily been a bitter experience to a man of sensitive temperament but he has faced sneers and insults with unabated courage, and nothing could have been finer than the way in which he insisted upon facing the instigators and dopes of this racism at Seaham in the election of 1935.
This courage in the face of the abuse of the uncourageous has not been in vain. MR. MACDONALD took with him in 1931 only a small band of adherents, but they have contributed much to the spirit and to the success of the National Government. There have been increasing signs recently that they are meeting a demand from that section of the public whose natural tendency in former times would have been to support a Labour Party, but who to-day seek for something more coherent and progressive than the official Labour Party...

NEWS

Huge rise in under-12 expulsions

■ Growing violence among young children has led to a fourfold increase in the number of pupils expelled from primary schools since the start of the decade. Many schools say that disruptive children as young as six are making it impossible for classmates to learn.

Statistics collected for the Education Department show that 1,445 children under the age of 12 were expelled in 1994-95, compared with 378 four years earlier. Pages 1, 17

Moves to calm baby milk anxiety

■ Thousands of anxious parents telephoned leading baby milk manufacturers demanding to know if their products were safe. At the same time, government ministers and scientists tried to calm concern over the effects of packaged milk on the fertility of boys. Pages 1, 16

Monks break habit

The modern scourges of oil pollution and "mad cow" disease have persuaded 16 Cistercian monks to break their silence and make a direct television appeal for tourists to visit their island home and help them to avoid economic disaster. Page 1

Aid worker murdered

A British aid worker has been killed in Kenya in the latest of a series of gang attacks aimed at expatriates and their expensive cars. Page 1

MPs' pay plea

Senior MPs are campaigning to secure bigger pay-offs for more than 100 backbenchers and ministers expected to lose their seats or retire at the general election. The Senior Salaries Review Body is expected to urge broad changes to MPs' remuneration. Page 2

Holiday girl saved

A British girl who collapsed while on holiday was recovering in a Florida hospital after a life-saving operation by a heart surgeon who waived his normally substantial fee. Page 3

Hardy windfall

Sixty-eight years after Thomas Hardy's death, an octogenarian family servant he never met is set to earn a five-figure windfall from a rush of films inspired by the popularity of recent costume dramas. Page 5

Book gets to root of Franco's pain

■ General Franco's stern conservatism and crotchety temper should be attributed largely to bad teeth, according to an unusual biography. The lavishly illustrated book, called *Los Dientes de Franco* (Franco's Teeth), reveals that he suffered throughout adulthood from caries, periodontitis, abscesses and fungus of the palate. Page 9

Sinn Féin under fire

A leading member of the SDLP launched a scathing attack on Sinn Féin ahead of Thursday's peace forum elections in Northern Ireland, accusing the party of being a "sectarian and fascist organisation". Page 6

CS spray success

Police are using CS sprays an average of three times a day, according to initial results from 16 forces engaged in field trials, and the sprays may soon be standard equipment for beat officers. Page 8

Chechenia peace deal

President Yeltsin concluded an historic peace agreement with his former Chechen rebel opponents, with the two sides pledging to halt all hostilities permanently from June 1. Page 9

India about-turn

India's Hindu nationalist Government, barely two weeks old, looks certain to be toppled today. Power is likely to shift to H.D. Deve Gowda, who speaks hardly a word of Hindi, making him incomprehensible to the vast majority of Indians. Page 10

Trade curbs attacked

Malcolm Rifkind hit out on the eve of his Washington visit at American moves to impose sanctions on foreign companies doing business with Cuba, Iran and Libya. Page 11



Harry Goode has put cows to work as advertising hoardings to try to ease the financial effect of the BSE scare. Eight of his herd are wearing plastic coats with adverts for products including ice cream. Mr Goode, of Solihull, grazes the herd beside the M42

SPORT

Cricket: A century by Alistair Brown helped England to a four-wicket triumph in the third one-day international against India, and victory in the series. Page 21

Football: Peter Beardsley has been dropped from England's squad for the European championship finals. Leicester have won promotion to the Premiership by beating Crystal Palace 2-1 at Wembley in the first division play-off. Page 21

Golf: Costantino Rocca, of Italy, won the Volvo PGA Championship by two strokes from Nick Faldo and Paul Lawrie with a three-under-par final round. Page 23

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, and Andre Agassi reached the second round of the men's singles at the French Open. Page 25

BUSINESS

Falling behind: Britain will fail to meet targets for higher-education standards, which are vital for business and economic competitiveness, according to a study to be published this week. Page 40

A firm of their own: More than 200 former British Gas service engineers will today become owners of their own company, bought from their former employer, which will handle industrial and commercial contracts. Page 40

Pleasant profits: Carlton Communications is expected to produce healthy first-half figures, boosted by its video and sound production operations. A leap in profits is expected at United Utilities later in a week, which will see profits grow at Anglian Water. Page 37

ARTS

Fine art: The Tate Gallery unveils a choice loan exhibition — gems from the Froehlich Foundation's superb collection of contemporary art. Page 12

Forgotten artist: The crisp and decisive draughtsmanship of Renato Guttuso is revealed in a retrospective at the Whitechapel Gallery which resurrects the Italian's reputation. Page 12

Good drama: Peter Hall's production of *Julius Caesar* for the RSC arrives at the Barbican in a production that features fine performances by Christopher Benjamin and John Nettles. Page 13

Familiar faces: The pop veterans Judith Durham and Neil Diamond give gigs to the faithful in London. Page 13

FEATURES

Begging letters: After the joy of winning the National Lottery comes the darker side: the lucky few have to learn how to cope with begging letters. Page 15

BOBBY

Twenty years on: Jon Swain tells how his memories of being a war correspondent in Indo-China are mingled with those of falling in love. Page 14

Grounded: An ear infection can spread because of pressure changes when flying. Dr Thomas Stuttard explains how to cure the problem. Page 14

LAW

Villain of the piece? John Hayes, outgoing secretary-general of the Law Society, talks about his time in office and the discontent among solicitors that has been bred by the recession. Page 29

Lack of justice: Will extradition be clarified by the new European Union treaty? Page 31

THE PAPERS

For the first time since the Liberation, a French Government is courageously attacking the mythology of the public debt... The bills and the pain are heavy, but they are the consequence of a reappraisal that has been delayed for too long. We are in 1789. — *Le Figaro*

TOMORROW

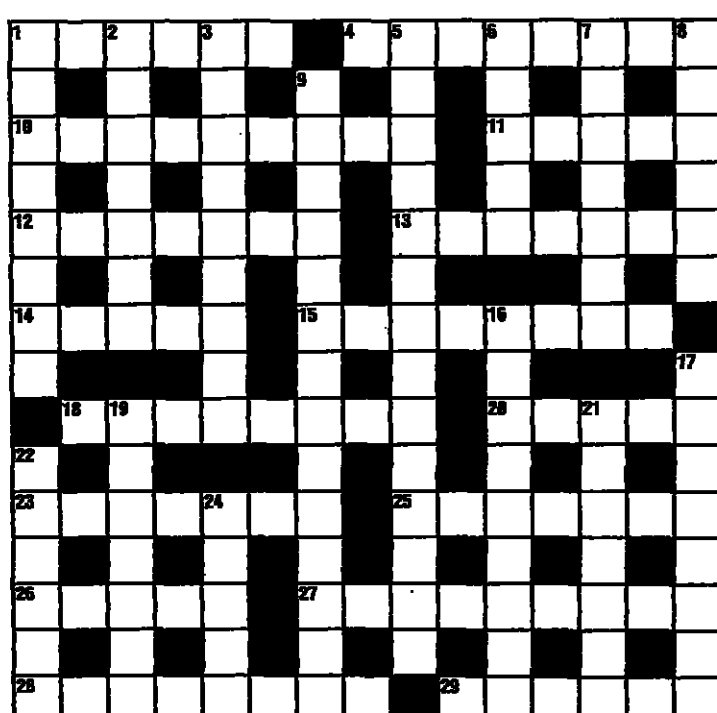
IN THE TIMES

■ **FASHION**
The chino comes of age: why the likes of Levi's Dockers, left, are back at the forefront of fashion

■ **INTERFACE**
CD-Rom offer, and your chance to win a multimedia PC

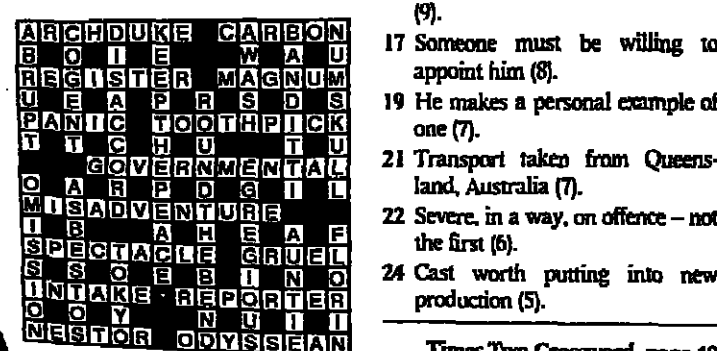


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,179



- ACROSS**
- 1 Foolish person who may pop out for an hour (6).
 - 4 Taken for granted (8).
 - 10 Make actor leap about in Shakespearean role (9).
 - 11 Ideal leader for daily paper (5).
 - 12 Business needs a new angle in freeze (7).
 - 13 Settles for ten less in exchange (7).
 - 14 Balls some fielders haven't caught (5).
 - 15 Fool's speech in production of Lear (8).
 - 18 Joint description of Eve's origin (5,3).
 - 20 Snail that goes round and round and up and down (5).
 - 23 We stop dancing after a sort of square dance (3-4).
 - 25 Girl is able to recall where dates can be found (7).
- DOWN**
- 1 Two birds seen in early part of the day (8).
 - 2 Is inclined to enter the church, subject to purification (7).
 - 3 Prospero's perverted tyrant (9).
 - 5 Home fixtures exhausting directors (8,6).
 - 6 Try to get out of business that moves between Asian banks (5).
 - 7 Climbing frame put in nursery, perhaps (7).
 - 8 Clear half the street (6).
 - 9 Hot stuff (6,8).
 - 16 Insects with wings of short span (9).
 - 17 Someone must be willing to appoint him (8).
 - 19 He makes a personal example of one (7).
 - 21 Transport taken from Queensland, Australia (7).
 - 22 Severe, in a way, on offence — not the first (6).
 - 24 Cast worth putting into new production (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,178



FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London: 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex: 702
Dorset, Here & IOW: 703
Devon & Cornwall: 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset: 705
Berkshire, Oxfordshire: 706
Bucks, Herts & Essex: 707
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire: 708
West Midlands & Shropshire: 709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester: 710
Central Midlands: 711
East Midlands: 712
Lincoln & Humberside: 713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire: 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd: 715
NW England: 716
W & S Yorkshire & Wales: 717
Cumbria & Lake District: 718
SW Scotland: 719
W Central Scotland: 720
Edinburgh & Borders: 721
Central Scotland: 722
Glasgow & E Highlands: 723
NW Scotland: 724
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland: 725
N Ireland: 726
Weatherall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AAROUND

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 4011 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic/roadworks:
Area within M25: 731
East/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Chen: 732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Wiltshire: 733
M25 London Orbital only: 734
M25 London Orbital & roadworks: 735

National traffic and roadworks:
West Country: 736
Avonmouth: 737
Wales: 738
Midlands: 739
North-west England: 740
North-east England: 741
Scotland: 742
Northern Ireland: 743
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, and Cardiff, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest night min: Larkhall, Wiltshire, 0.1C; highest sunshine: Torquay, 11hr.

DID YOU READ YOUR HOROSCOPE TODAY?

Then you are interested in what the future might bring. Like people who take out WPA's Health & Science Plan, cash when you need it, in sickness and in health.

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AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; ds=dist anticyclone; du=dust; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail.

General: Rainy spells in most places. Eastern parts of England will start dry and bright but rain over west Wales will spread across all areas by mid-afternoon. In the north, some showers will be heavy while, in the south, it will turn drizzly later. It will become rather breezy, but temperatures will rise to normal values.

Rain over Northern Ireland will spread across mainland Scotland by midday or so and to Shetland before tea-time. Some of the rain will be heavy in the north and west, while clearer showery weather may reach Scotland later in the evening. It will be windy for a time but temperatures should get up to normal everywhere.

London, SE, Cent S England, Channel Is: Rain or drizzle from southwest, hill and coastal fog later. Wind south or southwest becoming moderate or fresh. Max 16C (61F).

E Anglia, Midlands, E NW, Cent N, NE England, Lake District: Bright start but rain spreading from southwest. Wind mainly south increasing fresh. Max 14C to 16C (57F to 61F).

SW England, Wales: Rain turning to drizzle later, with hill and coastal fog. Wind south then southwest mainly fresh. Max 14C (57F).

Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll: Rain spreading from southwest, some heavy. Extensive hill fog. Wind southwest then south moderate or fresh locally strong. Max 12C to 14C (54F to 57F).

Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland: Bright at first but rain from southwest later. Wind southeast increasing fresh or strong. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

N Ireland: Rain or drizzle, with hill fog, perhaps a little clearer later. Wind south then southwest fresh, but decreasing later. Max 15C (59F).

Outlook: Further rain or drizzle in the south, sunshine and showers in the north.

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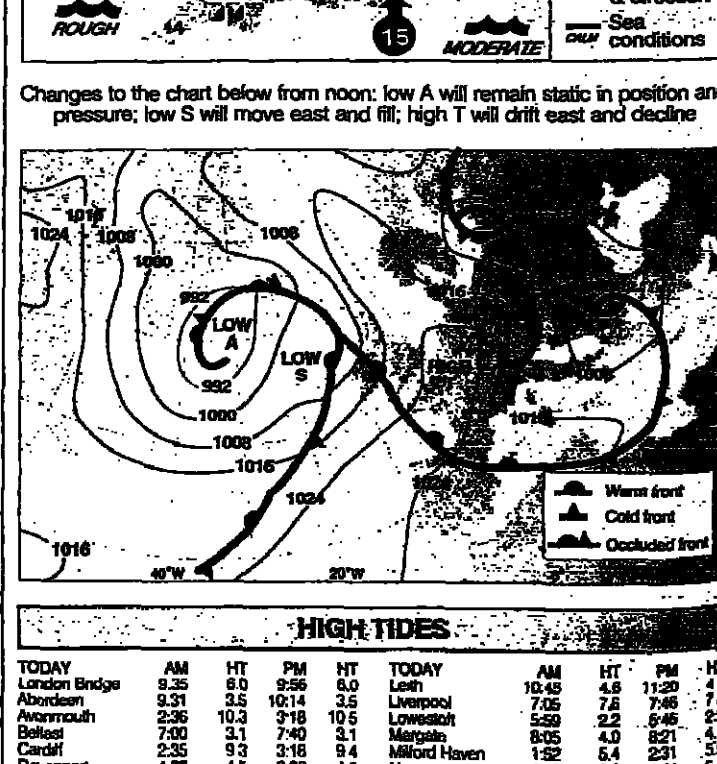
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